

# MARCH 2012 – POSITION STATEMENT

FROM: The Office of Mayor Jonathan L. Hornik

DATE: March 8, 2012

RE: Position on Atlantic Tree Recycling Facility

I, along with many of our residents, recently became aware of a land use application submitted to the Zoning Board by an entity known as Atlantic Tree Reality, LLC (“Atlantic Tree”). The application proposes to use a large vacant property located on Tennent Road as a tree recycling facility. The site is within a residentially zoned neighborhood and is inconsistent with the surrounding uses. Most troubling is the site’s close proximity to an early childhood learning center.

Upon learning of the application, this Administration immediately reviewed all of the plans submitted by Atlantic Tree and was prepared to mount a vigorous opposition before the Zoning Board. Atlantic Tree, however, refused to present its application and submit to a public hearing where the Administration could present its own witnesses and testimony along with that of concerned neighbors. Atlantic Tree is now instead pursuing an approval from the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Upon learning of this new strategy, I immediately had the Township’s professionals contact the Monmouth County Solid Waste Advisory Council to express our deep concerns about the proposal’s threat to public health and safety. The Township has already appeared at a meeting with County professionals to register these objections.

It is anticipated that Atlantic Tree will be filing a formal application with the Monmouth County Solid Waste Advisory Council which will ultimately have to be acted upon by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. I am committed to protecting the health and safety of the Township’s citizens and will not only appear to object to any County approval but will further pursue any and all legal remedies challenging any such approval. I invite all Township residents to join me in fighting this detrimental proposal before the County Board of Chosen Freeholders.