

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR HORNİK ADDRESSES STATE SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY HEARING

Continues to Urge State Lawmakers to Hold JCP&L Accountable

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (October 20, 2020) – Mayor Jonathan Hornik testified at the Senate Law and Public Safety Meeting on October 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm regarding JCP&L's abysmal response to outages resulting from Tropical Storm Isaias. The hearing was chaired by Senator Linda R. Greenstein.

Following the storm, Marlboro experienced extended power outages, and residents received inaccurate text messages sent by JCP&L which were, misleading and incorrect causing further confusion to residents. Prior to his State Senate testimony, Mayor Hornik wrote a letter to Board of Public Utilities President Fiordaliso, copying Governor Murphy, State Senators, Congressman Pallone, and representatives from JCP&L. In response, Speaker Craig Coughlin invited Mayor Hornik to testify before New Jersey State Assembly Committee on August 19. This was followed with by a tele-conference with BPU President Fiordaliso.

Each of these communications detailed JCP&L's inadequate response to the power outages caused by Tropical Storm Isaias. Mayor Hornik's testimony at the Senate hearing included in part, "This was a quick moving storm, yet many of our residents were without power for as long as the multi-day Sandy. We understand that it takes time to assess and allocate resources, but days after Isaias passed JCP&L did not have answers. On the first day following Isaias, 90% of our residents without power. Day two 80% and day three 70%. It was not until day four that power was to be restored to just over half our residents." He continued, "I was on the phone with JCP&L 4, 5, 6 times a day. They promised trucks were on their way, yet nothing happened. The most frustrating part is that JCP&L seems to be happy with their storm response."

Mayor Hornik stated, "I have come to the realization that JCP&L has only one goal, and that is to protect their shareholders (by maximizing profits). Unless the lawmakers institute substantial penalties for poor restoration efforts and the BPU enforces those penalties, JCP&L has no incentive nor intention to fix the problem."

He continued, “I am thankful to Senator Greenstein and the Senate for allowing me to peak before this committee on behalf of my residents. I hope that JCP&L will be required to invest in measurable and concrete storm response, meaningful system upgrades, and substantially improve their communication with the public and local elected officials.”

Residents can view archived and live hearings at <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>

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