

**MAYOR ANTHONY R. SUAREZ**  
**734 Oak Street**  
**Ridgefield, New Jersey 07657**

August, 2011

Dear Neighbor:

I hope you and your family are enjoying the summer months. I am writing you regarding this year's municipal election. As you may know, I will be seeking reelection as your Mayor. My running mates, Council President Russell Castelli and Councilman Javier Acosta, are also seeking reelection to the Council. This letter is to explain to you my reasons for running for reelection and to give you information about what has happened in the Borough over the past several years under the leadership of the Republicans from 2007 to 2010.

Before providing you this information, I want to thank all of you for your support while I was fighting to clear my name from the allegations against me, and for keeping my family in your prayers during these difficult years. The letters, emails, and warm wishes from the neighbors that we have known for years, as well as the support we received from many in the community that we only recently came to know, provided the foundation that my wife Catherine and I needed to keep focused on the important things in life. I am grateful to have been vindicated, but more grateful for the town's support. We can never thank you enough, and would not have made it without your help and support.

During these very difficult past few years, I realized how important Ridgefield is to me and my family. I was especially heartened when you voted to keep me in office during last year's attempt by the Republicans to force me out of the Mayor's seat through their recall election. Now that I have been vindicated, I am determined to continue my work at improving the quality of life for all of Ridgefield's residents. I have the team in place to continue this mission and would ask that you support this team.

I will explain to you, first of all, that Ridgefield has a Borough form of government. This means that there are seven members of the governing body who run for office, six Council persons and one Mayor. Decisions are made by majority vote of the Council. The Mayor is only permitted to vote in the event of a tie. From 2007-2010, the majority of the Council was made up of Republicans, and they ran the town even though I still served as Mayor. During that time, the Republicans set our budget, controlled our spending, and dictated our policies. I would submit to you that those years were not good ones for Ridgefield, and with this year's shift to a Democratic majority we have been able to get our fiscal house in order.

During those four years of Republican rule, spending was out of control and taxes went through the roof. For example, legal fees skyrocketed due to the hiring of a politically connected law firm that was very close to former Republican Councilman Robert Avery, who still runs the Republican party in town as its Chairman. Furthermore, decisions were made that did not benefit the Borough financially and were ill advised, such as the hiring and firing of an architect to renovate Borough Hall. The result was that we had no final plans for the building, were forced to pay \$100,000 in fees to the architect, and tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

The town also endured the expense of a recall election that was forced upon us by the Avery Republicans. This exercise in futility cost the Borough tens of thousands of dollars. The final insult came when Mr. Avery was quoted in the Record as saying, "Ridgefield has failed its collective intelligence test" by not supporting his candidate Warren Vincentz, and for not recalling me from office just two months shy of the date of my trial in which I was vindicated.

The Avery Republicans created positions for political cronies that were not necessary and only added onto our already bloated budget. As a result taxes went up every year under the tenure of Republican Finance Chairman Warren Vincentz, who, with his mentor Robert Avery, seemed more intent on getting me out of office and making my family miserable, than running the town in an effective and efficient manner.

All of this changed in January when Democratic Councilman Hugo Jimenez was elected to the Council, making a 3-3 split between Republicans and Democrats. I then became the tie breaking vote on the governing body. Since January our new administration has moved aggressively to slash spending by eliminating the patronage jobs of the past and taking steps to eliminate unnecessary spending. We have merged boards in town resulting in the elimination of professional expenses such as zoning board attorney, engineer, planner and secretary. We have consolidated our local welfare board with that of the County of Bergen where we received the same level of service at no charge. We have outsourced certain positions as employees retire, resulting in savings by eliminating the cost of health insurance and pension benefits for those employees. We have also hired individuals to positions that are keeping professional fees low as opposed to those who served under the Republicans.

Our efforts are paying off. Municipal taxes will not increase for the remainder of the year. At the same time, we have been working on projects to improve town facilities as well as our school system.

In addition, the Council has engaged in the reassessment of property values in town, which will surely bring tax relief to homeowners, as the basis of our present municipal tax rate is the values established in the 2005 revaluation which was done at the height of the real estate market. As a result we expect to have taxpayer relief in the next year when the reassessment is completed.

As this year's campaign season heats up, you will hear lots of charges and countercharges. I urge you to keep three questions in mind while you evaluate the position of both sides:

- 1. Did your municipal taxes go up over the past 4 years of Republican control (2007-2010)?***
- 2. What improvements did you see in town under Republican control during 2007 to 2010?***
- 3. (Going to get this to you)***

I know what the answers should be, and with that I ask for your vote for both me and my running mates, Russell Castelli and Javier Acosta in November.

Thank you again for your support and prayers. God bless you and the Borough of Ridgefield.

Sincerely,



Mayor Anthony R. Suarez

*P.S. It's an honor to serve as your Mayor. Please call me at 201-943-5215 x425 if you have any questions.*