



TOWN OF KEARNY

HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

402 Kearny Avenue
Kearny, New Jersey 07032

Alberto G. Santos
Mayor

January 2010

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Dear Kearny Taxpayer:


Your tax bills for the first and second quarters of calendar year 2010 are enclosed. They are flat compared to your previous tax payments in August and November 2009. Please note that the tax bills for the third and fourth quarters, which will be mailed in July, will reflect the yet-to-be-adopted budgets of the town, school district and County. The town will adopt its municipal budget in the Spring and the school district's proposed budget is subject to voter approval at the next school election on April 20, 2010. Accordingly, the figures in the third and fourth quarter bills will likely differ from those in the enclosed bills.

The Council and I remain committed to doing our part in meeting the challenge of tax affordability in a fiscally responsible manner. Just last month, Moody's Investors Service upgraded Kearny's credit rating and assigned a positive outlook to the town's financial position. Kearny was one of only a few municipalities in the State that was upgraded in 2009. Moody's highlighted Kearny's conservative budgeting and its sizeable surpluses in two consecutive years. The surpluses were generated in part by measures the Town Council and I have undertaken to manage costs within our control, such as maintaining employee salary increases at the rate of inflation, phasing in employee contributions for health insurance coverage and gradually reducing the municipal workforce through attrition. We have also implemented policies that generate new revenue such as the redevelopment of industrial properties and the capping of the former Keegan landfill on Bergen Avenue.

Notwithstanding this accomplishment, we recognize that the local property tax burden is high. An average-assessed home in Kearny paid \$8,947 in taxes in 2009, of which 36.6% (\$3,280) was for the municipal budget set by the Council and me. The other portions were for the school district, 46.3% (\$4,145), and Hudson County, 17% (\$1,522). All levels of local government must work harder to find ways to ease the property tax burden while maintaining necessary government services. In addition, because the property tax burden is a serious issue throughout the State of New Jersey, it also needs to be dealt with on a statewide basis.

Finally, please note that the due date for the first quarter tax bill is February 10, 2010. By State law, quarterly payments received after the close of business on February 10, 2010 will incur interest charges from February 1, 2010. If you would like to pay your taxes in person, please note that the Tax Collector's Office at Town Hall will be open late until 7 p.m. on February 9, 2010. Please also note that the due date for the second quarter tax bill is May 10, 2010 and that the Tax Collector's Office will be open late until 7 p.m. on May 6, 2010.

Very truly yours,



Alberto G. Santos
Mayor