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Good morning everyone!

My name is Maureen Persi. I reside at 1908 Baltimore Avenue.

I am very disappointed Mayor Hill being unavailable for the second consecutive month to meet his obligation to the Ortley Beach Taxpayers.

I want to start my presentation by thanking Joan Strahan for suggesting to me at the August meeting to form a committee and start gathering information about the possibility of utilizing the vacant McDonald's as the Ortley Beach Community Center. I am here to report my findings and much, much more! Please allow me to indulge.

First, I want to thank the 429 taxpayers for allowing me to speak with each of you. I even want to thank the nine taxpayers who chose not to sign my petition. A shout out to Marie & Steve, Fatima and Maria for helping with the petitions. For me, going door to door was without a doubt one of the best experiences I have ever had in Ortley Beach.

I did just what Joan suggested; I formed a committee of one and began canvassing the streets, the beach and the ACME of Ortley Beach. What happened was... the idea of an Ortley Beach Community Center located at the vacant McDonald's morphed into more than just that. It became more and more evident as I spoke to the Ortley Beach Taxpayer's about their total discontent and about the total lack of services provided to the barrier island by Toms River Township. We all know we have been ignored for many years. It seems to many of us, if Toms River Twps. does not see us worthy enough to get what is due, and then maybe some other communities will see our value and show us the respect we deserve.

Therefore, every day I was on a **mission** with my **petition** and went out to speak to the Ortley Beach taxpayers about my idea to do a **feasibility study** to determine what it will take to secede from Toms River Township.

In addition to my presentation, I passed out OBVTA applications for membership. As an aside, as I was distributing the OBVTA applications, I could not help but think wouldn't it be a nice gesture, if the OBVTA board members formed a **Welcoming Committee** and took time to go door to door to welcome residents upon their move to Ortley Beach? Maybe we could have a viable cross section of Ortley Beach taxpayers supporting this organization. Get some new faces and some new ideas; trust me they are out there!

I was amazed at the taxpayers I met. They were warm, friendly, and welcoming to me. Many invited me into their beautiful homes; one woman even took me on a tour of her home. I had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful people. I met an owner of a Gold's Gym, a restaurant owner in north Jersey, an Engineer who built Giant Stadium, and The UN building, Doctors, Attorneys, a CPA, a Service Mgr. at a car dealership, a Title Company owner, a north Jersey Council member, a car designer, a Board of Education member, teachers, principals,

superintendent of schools, a Fire Battalion Captain, a professor at the College of New Jersey, an owner of a large tile company, a real estate appraiser, the owner and operator of the Casino Pier Carousel, the author of A Beach Called Ortley, and a priest to mention a few. Though I did not get to meet a north Jersey Mayor and a NJ State Senator, so I have been told.

In short, Ortley Beach is no longer the **bungalow community** that once populated the area when my Uncle Lee Persi founded Persi's Pizza in 1946. Ortley Beach is now the **Hi Rise community** supported by professionals.

As I gave my short presentation asking taxpayers to sign my petition the overall sentiment was consistent **the services we receive in Ortley Beach are dismal compared to the taxes we pay**. I barely got through my presentation and I will tell you, the Taxpayers of Ortley Beach were grabbing my clipboard and asking if they could sign three times?

Let me say this as gently as possible, the **429** taxpayers that I met with are **upset** and **dissatisfied** with the **leadership** and are **demanding a feasibility study be conducted concerning the secession from Toms River Township.**

Additionally, the powers that be are ignoring my suggestion that the Ortleby Beach residents acquire the vacant Mc Donald's property owned by an LLC out of Dallas, Texas for use as our Ortleby Beach Community Center. There was not **one** taxpayer that did not support that idea. In fact, **every** taxpayer thought it was an **outstanding idea.** An ambulance, a police substation along with community activities so the Ortleby Beach Taxpayer's and their families could meet and mingle.

Now for the taxpayers' verbatim complaints in no special order: the placement of the pickle ball court,(big issue) the lack of revenue from the pickle ball court since outsiders are using it, the clogged sewer drains, the poor response during snow removal,(big issue) the infrequent visits of the

street cleaner,(big issue) the roving ambulance,(big issue), the lack of a police substation,(big issue) the concern about the fire hydrant not being properly flushed when an emergency arose on Fiedler Avenue,(big issue) the uncleanliness of the beach, the lack of trash /recycle cans at the beach, the speeding on Bay Blvd., the difficulty of crossing Bay Blvd. due to random over grown trees and bushes, the large piles of miniature plastic liquor bottles behind Spirits Liquor store that just pile up and residents are expected to clean up, the recycling schedule after Labor Day **(the delayed picked up until the following week as the blue recycling barrels remain in the streets because of Ortle Beach's began its abbreviated trash/recycle schedule)**, (big issue) cars parked on corners that are never ticketed and obstruct drivers' line of sight, bicyclers traveling against traffic, vagrants beginning to loiter around the vacant Mc Donald's, families unable to get to their homes during the pop up teen parties and when the police were called the response was ,we do not have sufficient man

power. The fact that we pay taxes to Toms River Township and we have **Seaside Heights Zip code.** (big issue) The pathetic downtown area looks more like a blighted ghetto rather than a vibrant beach community. The fact that the Moose Club has the only liquor license in Ortley Beach. The two sets of standards that come from the Zoning Board. The rude treatment of owners from inspection department. Telephone poles that are leaning toward homes that should have been replaced after Super Storm Sandy. The fact that Condominiums are being built on the Surf Club property and taxpayers were never informed. Everyone was lead to believe we would have an extension to our boardwalk; except for the Golden Gull Condo.(big issue) I could go on and on about their complaints. Every household that signed the petition had a negative story to share. The only positive thing the taxpayers gave a pass to was regular garbage pickup, when it is regularly picked up during the summer. Taxpayers could not even say anything good about extra collection.

In closing, I would like to say, I think I have awakened a sleeping giant. Here are my petitions...**429 Ortley Beach Taxpayers' Strong!** If I missed anyone in the audience, please feel free to see me, I have more forms available.

We also need taxpayers to sign up to assist in the development of the **Feasibility Study**. Please see me before you leave if you would like to participate on that committee.

In conclusion, all I can say is we need the feasibility study done ASAP because... **"Mayor Hill you've got a problem in Ortley Beach!"**

I am submitting the petitions, and requesting that my presentation become part of the minutes.

Thank you,

Dr. Maureen J. Persi

Saturday, September 17, 2022