



# CITY OF PLAINFIELD

## Press Release

**Office of the Mayor**  
**Honorable Sharon M. Robinson-Briggs**  
Mayor, City of Plainfield  
908-753-3310  
Fax: 908-753-3634

### **FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION AND PUBLICATION**

#### **Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs supports pension deferral strategy**

Plainfield, NJ: February 2, 2009:

After participating last week on a conference call with representatives of Governor Corzine's state financial team and various Mayors from New Jersey, and after discussing this with her City Administrator Marc Dashield and Corporation Counsel Daniel Williamson, the Mayor has renewed her recommendation tonight to the Plainfield City Council for the City of Plainfield and strongly urged them to participate in the Governor's Proposal for temporary deferral of local pension contributions as a means of helping Plainfield maintain the 4% tax levy.

Per Mayor Robinson-Briggs, "this appears to be the only available viable solution to an economic situation which currently exists in the City of Plainfield, Union County and the State of New Jersey". This deferral proposal would ease the property tax burden right now and allow more residents to be able to afford home ownership. This would also help our City avoid raising taxes to an unbearable high level. It will help us to avoid any critical cuts which could result in sacrifices to our public safety and public health.

Per Governor Corzine's proposal, this proposal helps to support service delivery, control property tax levies and minimize the impact on the pension system while providing an alternative investment option for those communities that have a less severe tax issue.

Mayor Robinson-Briggs further indicated that "this proposal also has the support of Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr, other Mayors statewide and that Assemblyman Jerry Green is in discussions with other State Legislators about this proposed legislation".

"Although my administration and I realize that our budget belongs to our City Council, we are respectfully requesting that they take a good look at this proposal which could be a savings for our taxpayers, particularly at a time when it is needed the most. My administration and I are very happy to introduce this proactive initiative to the Council. I am requesting City Council Members to spend time reviewing this concept



which could actually save significant tax payer dollars, keep more people in their homes and assist with balancing our budget to the 4% tax levy or possibly lower”.

In the interim, a document will be provided to the City Council and community at the next City Council meeting to address any questions. Additionally, a Community Forum has been scheduled for February 25, 2009 6:30pm, Washington Community School, Darrow Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey. The community will be fully apprised about this proposal and recommendation.

**END**