



## From the Desk of Mayor Frank Nunziato

At Monday's Mayor and Council meeting, the Council approved Resolution 243-2021 consenting to the assignment of rights and obligations stated in the redevelopment agreement and financial agreement from Linque Equities to 235 Veterans Boulevard Warehouse Urban Renewal, LLC. As everyone is aware, Linque Equities is currently constructing a 356,000 sq ft light industrial warehouse along Veterans Boulevard for which they applied for and received approval for a "long term tax exemption" (PILOT). By consenting to this assignment, the Borough was essentially allowing the transfer of the terms in the previously adopted redevelopment agreement and financial agreement to the new urban renewal entity. This action did not change any of the terms within the agreements previously approved. Linque Equities remains responsible for the construction of the warehouse but 235 Veterans Boulevard Warehouse Urban Renewal, LLC will be the entity doing business with the Borough once the warehouse is completed.

This resolution also approved a significant benefit to the Borough. As a condition for our approval, Linque Equities has agreed to make a one-time payment to the Borough in the amount of \$1,130,000. This payment is NOT related to the terms of the financial agreement; it is NOT a PILOT payment; it is NOT related to the annual service charge; nor is it related to the excess profits terms in the agreement. This was a business transaction - Linque obviously had incentive to complete their business transaction and the Borough was able to negotiate a benefit for our community. As a result of those negotiations, the Borough will be receiving a payment of \$1,130,000 that wasn't in our sights a few weeks ago. We will use these funds to pay for significant capital improvements that will benefit our community in 2022.

I'm pleased to announce that Rutherford has begun the process of creating the position of Public Information Officer. When I took office almost 2 years ago, one of my top priorities was to create a communications infrastructure within Rutherford. Citizens wanted regular communication in various forms to understand the town's state of affairs, new and ongoing activities, and available resources. And of course, the need for on demand health information was unfortunately

expedited by COVID shortly after I took office. Prior to COVID and taking office in November 2019, Rutherford only had a contract web administrator. On March 12th of 2020, our contract web administrator at the time was able to pivot to being a content creator for multiple departments, social media manager and web administrator within 24 hours notice. Having a person dedicated to communication in a time of crisis was instrumental in reaching residents in ways we had never been able to before.

As COVID progressed and business as usual returned, my colleagues and I saw how having a person dedicated to facilitating departmental content creation, social media management, email management, and newsletter communications benefitted Borough operations, and most importantly, you, the residents we serve.

Since March of 2020, the content for every COVID update, Borough social media post and print mailer, the Rutherfordforward document and every edition of this newsletter has been written, researched, published and/or compiled by the person in this role, contracted with the Borough as a vendor. Due to the ongoing demands of timely communication, it became apparent the role should be a dedicated employee who is on call 24/7 for communicating daily happenings and after-hours emergency situations as they occur.

As such, after returning from my medical leave, with the help of my colleagues and some guidance from Civil Service, we decided to pursue the position of full time position of Public Information Officer within the Borough of Rutherford. I believe it's a vitally important role, especially during this digital era where quick communication is an expectation.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of Rutherford happy holidays. Be mindful of the increasing COVID positivity rates and please do everything you can to stay safe and healthy during your celebration this year.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Frank Nunziato



On Twitter:  
@Rutherford07070



On Facebook:  
Borough of Rutherford NJ

December 17, 2021

## Rutherford's HOLIDAY 2021

**Holiday House Decorating  
& Gingerbread Winners  
will be awarded their  
prizes Sunday evening!**

### Councilman Matthew Cokeley

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**Rutherford FD:** I'd like to thank the Rutherford Fire Department volunteers who will graciously give their time to escort Santa around town tomorrow, Saturday December 18th, beginning around noon! There will be 5 different groups of Santa's helpers on fire trucks throughout Rutherford during the day, so please listen for the sirens announcing when he's approaching your neighborhood.

At this week's meeting, the Council awarded a contract to Pierce Manufacturing for \$622,754 to refurbish the Rutherford Fire Dept's 3 existing fire vehicles. The Borough chose to refurbish these vehicles in lieu of purchasing new vehicles as a way of cost savings to the taxpayers of Rutherford. Once these vehicles are completed we anticipate getting another 10 years of service out of them. Refurbishing these vehicles rather than purchasing new ones saved the taxpayers close to \$2 million.

While each vehicle is being serviced, the Borough has acquired a replacement vehicle from the Midland Park Fire Dept to ensure there is no service interruption in Rutherford.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Rutherford Volunteer Firefighter - youth or adult - email [recruitment@rutherfordfd.com](mailto:recruitment@rutherfordfd.com). The Rutherford Fire Department's Junior Firefighter's program is now open to 16 and 17 year old youths.

**Social Services:** Families in need of emergency food please contact the Social Services Director, Genevieve Kacmarcik, at 201- 460-3028 or [gkacmarcik@rutherfordboronj.com](mailto:gkacmarcik@rutherfordboronj.com) or me directly at [mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com](mailto:mcokeley@rutherfordboronj.com) and we can connect you with the Rutherford Food Pantry.

### Councilman Tom Mullahey

tmullahey@rutherfordboronj.com

**Police:** Please join me in welcoming the Rutherford PD's newest Special Law Enforcement Officers:

SLEO Kareem Mansour is a Bayonne resident who speaks fluent Arabic and English.

SLEO Kacper Gozdek is a Lyndhurst resident and an active member of the Rutherford Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He will assist with medical calls while on-duty, providing a quicker response time when Ambulance Corps. volunteers are not "on-duty" to our community members and visitors.

SLEO Talin Batra Rutherford resident, R.H.S. 2018 graduate, and is fluent in Hindi and English.

Welcome to Rutherford!

### Councilman Ray Guzman

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#### Rutherford Public Library Community Survey

Rutherford Public Library is embarking on the creation of a brand new 5-year strategic plan, and we want to hear from you! In order to ensure our services best meet the needs of Rutherford residents, we are conducting a community survey. Please take a few minutes to fill it out; your feedback is important to us whether you currently use the library or not: <https://forms.gle/1xhzrH5vLjQdkRCa9>



Help shape the future of The Rutherford Public Library!  
Take the Strategic Planning Committee's survey at

[www.rutherfordlibrary.org](http://www.rutherfordlibrary.org)  
or visit the Library at 150 Park Ave

**Winter is here! The owner, tenant or occupant of any lands with public sidewalks in the Borough of Rutherford, shall remove all snow and ice from those sidewalks within 12 hours of daylight after all storms.**

