

SPECIAL LETTER FROM THE MAYOR
BOROUGH OF SURF CITY

Dear Surf City Taxpayer:

In consultation with the Borough Council, I feel it is imperative to bring to your attention a matter of **immediate** concern.

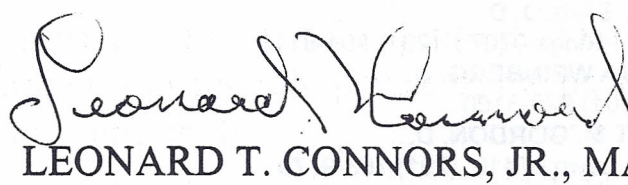
New Jersey Senate President Stephen Sweeney is the primary sponsor of legislation (Senate bill S-2368) which will require all municipalities accepting Federal or State government funds for replenishing storm damaged beaches to provide **free public** beach access and **public toilet** facilities. While there may be public support for such legislation, it is **important for you and the public** to understand the direct impact this may have on the beach replenishment process, beach maintenance and operations of the beaches, local property taxes and property values.

The cost associated with maintaining and operating our beaches is substantial- the preliminary costs for maintaining and operating the Surf City beaches in 2012 was **\$584,129** - these cost include, but are not limited to; lifeguards, police, sanitation, additional insurance, beach cleanup and maintenance. These costs are currently paid primarily by those who use the beach- visitors from through the mid-Atlantic region and residents alike- through the sale of beach badges. Beach badge sales in 2012 generated **\$563,838** leaving **\$20,291** in costs to be assumed by you, the taxpayer. Should Senator Sweeney's legislation pass, the entire burden of maintaining and operating the beach would become the responsibility of **you**, the local property owner. Senator Sweeney's legislation would add a **half-million dollars** to the municipal budget and dramatically increase your property taxes - for a property assessed at **\$600,000** that would mean a local **property tax increase** of approximately \$200 - the burden to cover the cost of beach services would be shifted solely to the property taxpayer. In short, under this legislation, **you**, the local property owner, would be subsidizing the use of the beach by beachgoers from near and far. In addition since this bill, if signed into law, requires free public toilets for beachgoers, has the very real possibility of raising the cost of beach operations even further if the State were to require that the Borough provide an increase number of free public toilets than are already provided by the municipality.

In closing since Senator Sweeney's legislation appears to be on the fast track for passage, I would encourage everyone to **immediately** contact Governor Christie and your State representatives and express your concern regarding the proposed legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you on this very important matter.

Yours truly,


LEONARD T. CONNORS, JR., MAYOR