
From: Baroni, Bill
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 12:47 PM
To: David Wildstein
Subject: FW: Fort Lee Correspondence by Mayor Sokolich
Attachments: DirectorBaroniCorrespond_20130912114422.pdf

Importance: High
Sensitivity: Personal

From: Maryanne Leodori [<mailto:M-Leodori@fortleenj.org>]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2013 12:44 PM
To: Baroni, Bill
Subject: Fort Lee Correspondence by Mayor Sokolich
Importance: High
Sensitivity: Personal

Dear Director Baroni,

Please see correspondence from Mayor Sokolich.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maryanne Leodori
Mayor's Office





BOROUGH OF FORT LEE

Office of the Mayor

309 Main Street
Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024-4799

Telephone (201) 592-3500 -Ext. 1003 Facsimile (201) 592-1657
E-mail: mayor@fortleenj.org

Mark J. Sokolich
Mayor

PERSONAL

Via Email:

September 12, 2013

The Honorable Bill Baroni
Deputy Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
225 Park Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10003

Dear Bill:

I am writing this correspondence to you and am refraining from copying any other party in the hopes that a recent decent decision by the Port Authority will be reversed quietly, uneventfully and without political fanfare.

Permit me to elaborate. Without any notice whatsoever to Fort Lee (or any of its agencies, including our Police Department), the Port Authority reduced the available toll booths for traffic flowing through Fort Lee from three to one. Suffice it to say, this decision has wreaked havoc upon our community during the morning rush hour, visiting upon us complete gridlock. Having received absolutely no notice of this decision, not having obtained any response to our multiple inquiries concerning same, and try as we may to understand its rationale without the benefit of a response from the Port Authority, we are reaching the conclusion that there are punitive overtones associated with this initiative. What other conclusion could we possibly reach?

Our emergency service vehicles are experiencing tremendous response time delays and my office is overwhelmed with complaints. Unquestionably, this decision has negatively impacted public safety here in Fort Lee. Adding insult to injury, many members of the public have indicated to me that the Port Authority Police Officers are advising commuters in response to their complaints that this recent traffic debacle is the result of a decision that I, as the Mayor, recently made. The basis, reason, or genesis of the decision is of no consequence to me; however, its profound and adverse impact on our community is of paramount importance to me.

The Honorable Bill Baroni

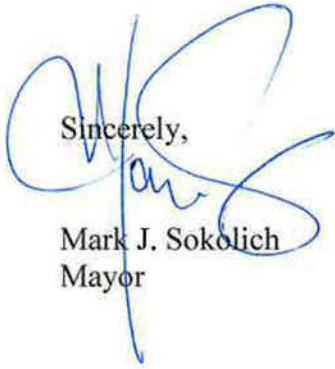
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I have incessantly attempted to contact Port Authority representatives to no avail. Would you please be good enough to please have someone contact me or Police Chief Bendul to discuss the basis of this recent policy change and what we must do to reverse it...plain and simple. *Query*: What do I do when our billion dollar redevelopment is put on line at the end of the next year?

Please call me as soon as possible in the hopes that we can resolve this issue and reverse a policy change that is wreaking havoc on Fort Lee....the otherwise cooperative and supportive host community to the busiest bridge in the world.

Mayor's Office	201-592-3500 X 1003
Law Office	201-224-4000
Home #	201-224-7755
Cell #	201-424-5014

Sincerely,



Mark J. Sokolich
Mayor

MJS:ml