



## MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

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### MIDDLESEX COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY MARKS 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE

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Improving the lives of the residents and those who work in Middlesex County

**July 17, 2012...**The Middlesex County Improvement Authority's programs have provided Middlesex County residents with vital services and millions of dollars in cost savings since the Authority's inception in 1990. By establishing and managing programs for curbside and yard waste recycling, long-term care, open space preservation, public financing, golf course operations, economic development and redevelopment, and community services, the MCIA has delivered services efficiently and effectively.

"It has always been the goal of the MCIA to offer services that improve the quality of life of Middlesex County residents through excellent programs that are operated at the lowest costs," said Richard Pucci, Executive Director. He continued, "In our more than 20 years of service, we have created and maintained a variety of programs with high standards and sound fiscal policies."

Pucci, the Executive Director of the Authority from the outset, is largely credited with building the MCIA into one of the largest and effective authorities in the state. Under his leadership, the Authority grew in its first year from one employee and a \$37,000 balance sheet to 20 years later over 600 employees and a balance sheet of \$650 million with net assets of \$25 million.

With operations beginning in 1995, the countywide recycling program has been crucial in achieving substantial recycling goals for Middlesex County. As recycling rates experience a decrease statewide, Middlesex County's rates have remained stable. Middlesex County is the only County in New Jersey that has met or exceeded the state-mandated 60 percent recycling rate for 14 years, and the County has been ranked the #1 recycling County for four of those years.

The MCIA's management of the Roosevelt Care Center Edison campus achieved "advisory standards" in the latest survey by the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services, an indication that the care services exceed state requirements. Management oversight has also resulted in lowering the annual subsidy by the County Freeholders to the facility by \$10.5 million, a substantial property tax savings to County residents from 1995-2010. The same care standards and fiscal responsibility are being applied to operations at the new Roosevelt Care Center at Old Bridge.

To date, the MCIA's technical and legal due diligence has resulted in 7,457 acres of open space being acquired or placed under contract. And due diligence activities are ongoing in 2012 for further property acquisition throughout the county including sites in South Brunswick, East Brunswick, Monroe, Old Bridge, Piscataway and Edison.

The Authority's financings have met the demands of bonding for municipalities, five special needs schools, senior housing, student residences, municipal facilities, a youth detention center and a hotel/conference center. Financing also covered the acquisition of a wide array of capital equipment necessary for safety, technology and day-to-day operations of municipal governments. MCIA bonds have resulted in millions of dollars of savings for county taxpayers. And to date, 580 special needs students are being educated at MCIA-financed schools; 263 seniors who have met income requirements are living in safety and security at the North Brunswick Senior Housing and the South Brunswick Senior Housing complexes; 671 Rutgers students are taking advantage of downtown New Brunswick apartment living in Rockoff Hall; and police cars, ambulances, fire trucks, public works and communications equipment and much more are helping municipalities provide services 24/7.

The MCIA management of four County golf courses at three locations (East Brunswick, Piscataway, Plainsboro) has resulted in affordable recreation for Middlesex County residents, and the fees at the courses are some of the lowest public golf course fees in New Jersey.

As part of the MCIA Economic Development Department's oversight of development and redevelopment projects, more than \$2 million in state and federal funding has been acquired for environmental investigation and redevelopment planning. The funds have been dispersed to a number of Middlesex County municipalities and have allowed municipal officials to move ahead with the redevelopment of long-standing underutilized properties.

Community Service projects include the operation of the Middlesex County food bank known as MCFOODS (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services). MCFOODS works to supply non-profits with food and personal supplies for needy clients. A vast majority of goods are acquired through financial contributions and food drives that are held during the year. MCFOODS also has mentored coalitions of the non-profits in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy to streamline and avoid duplication of services in those cities.

MCIA Chairman Leonard Roseman concluded, "Our track record speaks for itself. Each area of programming has been successful, and over a more than 20-year period, the MCIA has managed to preserve the quality of its programs as well as the cost-effectiveness of these programs." He added, "These goals have been particularly challenging during the economic downturn of the last few years, but our experience and professionalism have continued to produce the best results."

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