

# Council Corner

The Robbinsville Township  
Governing Body Newsletter



***Council President Debbie Blakely was among those on hand April 13 at the Vincent J. Calcagno Senior Center to read a special Centennial Proclamation from Mayor Dave Fried and to wish Robbinsville resident Lillian Rooney a very happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday***

## Updated BAPS Statement

Members of Township Council took questions from the public regarding the recent findings and subsequent investigations at BAPS-associated dwellings on North Main Street and Voelbel Road at our April 13, 2023 meeting.

We want to reiterate the conditions found within those buildings, the number of occupants residing there, along with the myriad of Fire Code and Uniform Construction Code violations, are obviously unacceptable. The safety and well-being of all residents and visitors to Robbinsville Township is of paramount importance to the Council and Administration.

While we understand the desire to know every detail immediately in this social media-driven society, that is not always possible. This investigation, and others, are being handled by multiple agencies, including the FBI, and there are pieces of information that could very well disrupt and even derail these investigations. The BAPS requested a statement of apology be read into the official record at Thursday's meeting. That statement, along with the original nj.com story and Council's initial statement, can be found on the Township website at [www.robbinsville.net](http://www.robbinsville.net) and was included in the April 17 Newsfeed.

Of the six structures cited for violations five have been deemed uninhabitable due to the conditions found inside. Those dwellings will not be certified for occupancy until all required repairs are completed and inspections conducted. As we stated previously, there is a team of people working very hard every day to keep this town safe. For those still wondering about the timing of all this, keep in mind it was Robbinsville officials, with the help of residents, who initiated the investigations.

Please continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Township Administration and our Police Department. Also feel free to reach out to us at [council@robbinsville.net](mailto:council@robbinsville.net).

## More Answers Needed Regarding State Aid for School District

After the Robbinsville School District shared the disappointing news with our community that it would not be receiving the State Aid it expected - even after the NJ Legislature proposed a bill to restore funding for numerous districts without anything additional coming to Robbinsville - Council members contacted eight Senators and members of the Assembly to help advocate for our District and its taxpayers. We all want to have a better idea how the State funding formula works. We also want answers as to how transparent the process really is for both districts and taxpayers, which see 56 percent of its total property tax go to schools. Of the school's budget, 73 percent of it is comprised of taxpayers' dollars. Clearly, more work needs to be done in Trenton.

Lawmakers also welcomed members of Council and the Board of Education to future meetings to discuss ways to move forward allowing districts to plan better for the future. We encourage our residents to reach out to our local Senators and Assembly persons to voice your concerns regarding the school funding issue.

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To view Council Resolutions and Ordinances, visit the Township website at [www.robbinsville.net](http://www.robbinsville.net) and click on "Township Council" beneath the "Government" tab.

Council encourages residents to reach out to us with their questions, concerns, or suggestions to: [Council@robbinsville.net](mailto:Council@robbinsville.net).