

APPEARED IN THE HANOVER EAGLE ON 3/24/2011

Dear Editor,

It looks like Governor Christie has awoken the State Legislature to the fact that businesses are fleeing the state like mice off of a sinking ship. Perhaps there is some hope when bills like A3859 are coming to light. The bill, if passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor gives back some control to the New Jersey businesses that have been held hostage by the concept and reality of Business Improvement Districts. On paper Business Improvement Districts are great ideas in which local businesses and government work together to deliver services to better the local economies. But then again this is New Jersey, a land where usually these great ideas should remain great ideas. Take for the fact that the beloved Soprano State is only one of two where municipal governments can create these districts without giving the local businesses a chance to vote on whether they want them or not.

5 Years ago the businesses in East Hanover were blessed with one of these districts which to date has not improved the local business atmosphere one iota. A good case can be made that it has actually hurt the town's business community. We warned everyone that these districts were expensive to create and almost as expensive to maintain. Bill A3859 will most likely put the maintenance cost back onto the local governments that created them.

Not to fear though as the East Hanover Business Association has a plan to stop that from happening. We ask that our mayor and town council take a serious look at accepting it in whole or work with us, not the Sid Board to craft a short term policy that will end this bloodletting via leeches or BIDs if you prefer and protect the future of our municipal economy.

I'd like to remind all of the business property owners to come to the March 30th Special Meeting at East Hanover Town Hall, 411 Ridgedale Avenue at 7:00 PM. This is not optional as the only way politicians react to anything is via the number of "Fannies" in the seats. They should also call the DeCroce/Webber 26th legislative district office at (973) 884-6190 and tell them you want them to support A3859.

Respectfully,

Mario Accumanno

East Hanover Business Association

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