



UPPER DARBY TOWNSHIP

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the committee , guest , as Mayor of Upper Darby township I welcome you to our community and welcome the opportunity to highlight the many challenges a Mayor of an inner ring suburb as large as Upper Darby encounters fiscally, legally, governmentally as well as socially and culturally. To give a brief overview of our characteristic I have enclosed for your review our diversity , housing mix and commercial statistics all post war constructed to a large degree, The hub of daily activity lies just a few hundred yards from here the 69th street terminal the gateway to Delaware, Montgomery and Chester Counties , although a significant ridership passes through this transportation hub it adds little to our economic stability, in fact one may conclude it is a cost factor to an ever demanding budget.

On fiscal challenges the municipality has always been fiscally conservative and as a rule maintained an adequate fund balance with tight reigns on F.T.E.'s and projects. To this end simply stated the 2011 budget of 62 million dollars represents an expenditure for police and fire of 55 % of the total budget, recreation, health and other municipal service make up the difference so there is very little in budgetary savings to realize without a significant reduction in public safety.

The federal Government allowing no restrictions on section 8 vouchers between Counties. This policy significantly impacts Upper Darby which has good transportation, decent and affordable housing units put us in a bad way for our

community future. The demands placed on our police, fire and E.M.S service along with our schools has and will continue to place more and

more demands on our budget and services. The Federal mandates and lack of funding in H.U.D. grants will also diminish our fund balance. In the interest of time the township chief administrative officer Tom Judge, of Upper Darby will give you a written report highlighting the impact of repairs to an aging infrastructure has on a community.

In regards to the State of Pennsylvania the only funds Upper Darby Township receives from your general fund is the liquid fuel tax allotment. This troubles most municipal leaders in the outer limits of Philadelphia do the funding the city gets from the State as well as the taxing opportunities, fees collected on cabs, parking, hotels etc. In the suburbs it is difficult to explain to a resident who argues they are moving West for lower taxes due to Upper Darby Tax is higher or they are getting more property for the same cost. In out lining towns of Delaware County the Pennsylvania State Police cover the Police Departments and there is no cost for this service. Upper Darby would be well served if the State would reimburse us for the direct cost of cutting the West Chester Pike medial strip or cleaning the State Highway drains when needed. My point is that while the inner ring suburbs are struggling the western towns continue to get a fiscal more a share of State assistance. One could argue a disparity in economic distribution of State resources,

The other issue I have is the mere safety of our residents who constantly contact there council person to enforce speeds along state highways or municipal streets, this challenge requires multiple police to clock under vicar in contrast to radar to meet the residents' concerns and enforce the law. This safety tool at this point would be welcomed even if the State reduces the fines on local roads.

With more time I'm sure we could have a great deal of understanding of the Challenges of a local government, although I'm sure most are aware that the

Chairman served here as our first Chief Administrative Officer immediately following a change to Home Rule, Senator Erickson has always been responsive to

our concerns and understands the many challenges we face and once again I thank you and the Members for reaching out to listen to the many challenges we all face in our roles as leaders.

July 21, 2011

Upper Darby Township Census Status

Population:	82, 795	2010
Male:	39,125	
Female:	42,696	
Average Family Size	3.23	
Currently Married	48.8%	
In Labor Force:	41,714	
Unemployed:	2.7%	
Average family income:	\$52,500	
Male full time income:	\$38,090	
Female full-time income	\$30,416	
Owner occupied housing units:	19,359	
Average value of homes:	93,700	
Rental occupied housing units:	12,264	
Section 8	1,100 approximate	
Rental Units	4,000	
65%	Residential	
25%	Commercial	
2%	Industrial	
8%	Other	