



July 3, 2013

Dear Hoboken Taxpayer:

I am extremely proud that we have once again been able to reduce municipal taxes despite the financial pressures that have forced so many other municipalities to increase their taxes. This year's municipal tax rate reflects a 2 percent rate reduction from last year. In the last four years, we have reduced the municipal tax rate by nearly 12 percent, from 1.901 to 1.678.

The City is responsible only for the municipal tax. Other taxes are either the responsibility of other government entities or established by law. Some of these other categories of tax have had increases over the past 4 years, unfortunately resulting in an increased total tax bill despite the tax reductions that we have worked so hard to achieve at our local level. The largest increase has been in County taxes, which have increased by almost 10 percent compared to last year.

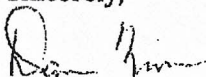
As all of you know, this has been a very challenging year for both the City and its residents as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. Fortunately, the difficult decisions we have made over the last four years have made our City financially resilient, enabling us to weather the crisis without a tax increase.

My Administration has been and will continue to be completely focused on ensuring that our City's infrastructure becomes more resilient as well. We have applied for numerous grants, received some, and continue to advocate for others. We have developed a comprehensive plan to protect our City from flooding including immediately moving forward with a second flood pump financed by a State low interest loan program. For more information on the City's Community Resilience plan visit [www.hobokennj.org/resiliency](http://www.hobokennj.org/resiliency).

We are proud that our efforts have led to Hoboken being chosen as the national model for a pilot partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, Sandia National Labs, PSE&G, and the State Board of Public Utilities to create a smart grid. This will assist with ensuring that even in the event of a power outage, our City's emergency facilities are fully operational. We have strongly advocated in support of PSE&G's Energy Strong program, which includes elevating and protecting Hoboken's electrical substations from future storms.

Finally, I have advocated strongly with State and federal authorities at the highest levels for grants to help urban areas and their residents, and very soon, additional grants will be announced. I encourage you to sign up at [www.hobokennj.org/alerts](http://www.hobokennj.org/alerts) or follow us on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/cityofhoboken](http://www.twitter.com/cityofhoboken)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/hoboken](http://www.facebook.com/hoboken)) so that you can be directly notified of grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Zimmer