

**OCEAN CITY FAIRNESS IN TAXES
POST OFFICE BOX 565
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY 08226**

Monday, August 23, 2021

Mr. Robert Barr, President
City Council of Ocean City, New Jersey
City Hall - 861 Asbury Avenue
Ocean City, New Jersey, 08226

**SUBJECT: Public Notification of the 2021-2025 Capital Improvement
Plan Presentation**

Dear President Barr:

At the city council meeting of Thursday, August 12, 2021, Mayor Gillian presented his five (5) year capital budget plan, which detailed capital improvement projects and related cost for the five year period from 2021 to 2025. The capital plan is crucial to the Ocean City community because it establishes a plan of action that will help Ocean City maintain its superior quality of life along with keeping the city competitive in the tourist industry. As an organization, Ocean City Fairness in Taxes (OCFIT) has always support Mayor Gillian's approach to capital improvements as this work is important to the overall well-being of the island community.

In years past, the city council agenda would clearly state when the Gillian administration would be making their capital plan presentation. However, for some unknown reason, the presentation of the 2021-2025 capital improvement plan was not part of the agenda for the council meeting of August 12, 2021. This omission is troubling as it did not alert the public of this important event and clearly adversely impacted the ability of the public to offer comments on this costly, long term plan. In order to correct this lack of public disclosure on the part of the Mayor Gillian, OCFIT is recommending that an additional public comment period be afforded to the public at the

upcoming city council meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021, in which members of the public can specifically address issues, concerns or questions regarding the 2021-2025 capital plan. The usual five (5) minute time period for each individual should be sufficient.

While OCFIT can question why this lack of public disclosure on the part of Mayor Gillian occurred in the first place, the more pressing issue at hand is the ability of the taxpaying public to offer remarks to a plan that will have a significant impact on the community. In addition, since the taxpayer will be obligated to fund this plan over the next 20 to 25 years, it is a matter of respect that they have a chance to question the Mayor and his administration regarding the plan and prior to the introduction of any funding (bond) ordinance. It is disappointing that Mayor Gillian thinks so little of the taxpayer that he would fail to make such a simple notification to the public to alert them of the presentation of a **\$141 million**, five year capital plan.

Hopefully, as City Council President, you will be in a position to correct the omission of Mayor Gillian and afford an opportunity to members of the public the necessary time to express their thoughts regarding the proposed five year capital plan. Please distribute this document as you see fit.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DBR', written in a cursive style.

David Breeden, President
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes

cc: Mayor Jay Gillian
Michael Allegretto, Aide to the Mayor
Melissa Rasner, City Clerk
Ocean City Fairness in Taxes Board of Directors