**[EZ SPEECH WRITERS NO. 15911]**

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Remarks by Mr. Greg Buontempo thanking his supporters for helping him win appointment as Mayor of Holmdel, New Jersey.

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[JOIN IN ANY APPLAUSE AND THEN TURN TOWARD ALEXAN-DRIA COMPILLAY] THANK YOU, ALEXANDRIA. WHAT A *WON-DERFUL* RENDITION OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM! YOU’VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL VOICE, AND WE’RE SO BLESSED THAT YOU WERE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR GIFT OF SONG WITH US THIS EVENING.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . FAMILY AND FRIENDS . . . DISTIN­GUISHED GUESTS: I’M SO ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF YOU BEING HERE WITH ME THIS EVENING, AND IF YOU WOULDN’T MIND, I’D LIKE TO BEGIN MY REMARKS WITH SOME VERY SINCERE AND VERY WELL-DESERVED “THANK-YOUs.” BUT I ALSO HAVE SOME TERRIFICALLY EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE WITH YOU THIS EVENING, AS WELL, SO I URGE YOU TO “STAY TUNED” TIL THE END OF THIS LITTLE SPEECH.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, OF COURSE, I MUST THANK MY DEAR WIFE, ANNMARIE. . . OUR THREE WONDERFUL CHILDREN, AMANDA, MICHAEL, AND PETER . . . AND MY MOM AND DAD, MARY AND GREG BUONTEMPO, WHO ARE ALL WITH US HERE TONIGHT. I’M PRETTY SURE THAT NO CANDIDATE FOR PUB-LIC OFFICE HAS EVER WON ELECTION WITHOUT THE NURT-URING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS FAMILY, AND I’M CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION. [TURN TOWARD YOUR FAMI-LY] WITHOUT YOU AND ALL YOU’VE DONE FOR ME THROUGH-OUT THE YEARS, I NEVER WOULD BE STANDING HERE THIS EVENING ACCEPTING THE HONOR OF BEING APPOINTED MAYOR OF HOLMDEL.

I MUST ALSO THANK SENATOR [FIRST NAME] KYRILLOS FOR CONDUCTING THE OATH-OF-OFFICE CEREMONY THIS [MORN-ING/AFTERNOON/EVENING]; I’M SO DEEPLY HONORED THAT YOU AGREED TO OFFICATE AT MY SWEARING-IN.

I ALSO OWE SINCEREST THANKS TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE — OUTGOING MAYOR, ERIC HINDS, AND COMMITTEEMEN MIKE NIKOLIS, [NAMES OF OTH-ER THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS] — WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY WITH HONOR AND DISTINCTION. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE IN ME TO LEAD THE TOWNSHIP’S GOVERNMENT FOR THE NEXT [NUMBER] YEARS, AND I’M SURE THAT, TOGETHER, WE CAN AND WILL LEAD HOLMDEL INTO AN ERA OF EVEN GREATER PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

FINALLY, I’D LIKE TO THANK SERENA DIMASO, [FIRST NAME] ARNONE, ASSEMBLYMAN DECLAN O’SCANLON, AND [ADD OTHER NAMES AND TITLES, IF DESIRED] — DEAR FRIENDS AND TIRELESS SUPPORTERS ALL: THANKS SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE!

NOW, AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I’VE BEEN INVOLVED IN CIVIC AFFAIRS HERE IN HOLMDEL FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS, AND I’VE SEEN OUR TOWN MAKE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS SINCE THAT DEVASTATING DAY IN [YEAR] WHEN BELL LABORATOR-IES CLOSED ITS DOORS FOR GOOD, LEAVING ITS WORLD-RE-NOWN CAMPUS EMPTY AND BARREN. [NUMBER] OF FOLKS SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES OUT OF WORK, AND THE TOWNSHIP’S TAX BASE SHRANK ALMOST OVERNIGHT BY A WHOPPING [NUMBER] PERCENT. THOSE WERE SOME DARK, DARK DAYS, MY FRIENDS, BUT HOLMDEL PROVED ITSELF TO BE A MOST RESILIENT COMMUNITY, AND SLOWLY BUT SURE-LY WE’VE BEEN MAKING A COMEBACK.

A GOOD PART OF THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN CENTERED ON THE RENOVATION, REDEVELOPMENT, AND REPURPOSING OF THE BELL LABORATORIES COMPLEX.

NOW, WHEN I FIRST BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS WORK, WE SET OURSELVES A RATHER MODEST GOAL. ALL WE WANTED TO DO WAS TO ENLARGE AND MODERNIZE HOLMDEL’S PUBLIC LIBRARY, WHICH HAS BEEN LOCATED HERE IN THE BASEMENT OF THE TOWN HALL SINCE [YEAR]. BUT IN [YEAR] THIS PROJECT EX-PANDED DRAMATICALLY AS IT WAS INCOR-PORATED INTO A MUCH MORE AMBITIOUS REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE BELL LABORATORIES CAMPUS, UN-DERWRITTEN IN PART BY [NAME THE MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES/DONORS].

AND SO, INSTEAD OF A MODEST RENNOVATION OF THE EX-ISTING LIBRARY, WE SET OUR SIGHTS ON A MUCH MORE SUB-STANTIAL GOAL: THE INSTALLATION OF A BRAND NEW, 18,000 SQUARE-FOOT COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER THAT WOULD BE INSTALLED ON THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE NEWLY-RENNOVATED BELL WORKS BUILDING.

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, THREE OF THE FOUR BUILDINGS COMPRISING THE ORIGINAL BELL LABORATORIES COMPLEX WILL BE EXTENSIVELY REFURBISHED AND REDE-VELOPED INTO STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR A WIDE ARRAY OF HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES. THROUGH THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE, [NUMBER] FIRMS HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO LEASING SPACE HERE — AMONG THEM [NAME OF SOME/ALL OF THE PROSPECTIVE TENANTS], WITH SEVERAL OTHER PROSPEC-TIVE TENANTS IN THE NEGOTIATING PIPELINE . THIS WILL TRANSLATE INTO HUNDREDS OF NEW JOBS FOR HOLMDEL-AREA RESIDENTS; AND A HUGE BOOST TO THE TOWNSHIP’S TAX BASE, WITH MORE THAN [NUMBER] SQUARE FEET OF RATABLE COMMERCIAL SPACE COMING ON LINE OVER THE NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS.

BUT FOR ME, THE MOST MEANINGFUL AND EXCITING PART OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS OUR PLAN FOR THE NEW LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER I MENTIONED EARLIER.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, EDUCATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART, AND THIS NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER WILL BE A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME. AND JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE IT! FOR IT’S NOT GOING TO BE JUST A LIBRARY. IT’S GOING TO BE PART LIBRARY, PART STATE-OF-THE-ART LEARNING CENTER, AND PART HISTORI-CAL MUSEUM, TRACING BELL LABS’ HISTORIC ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH MAJOR ADVANCEMENTS AS THE TRANSISTOR, THE TOUCH-TONE PHONE, FIBRE OPTICS, THE FIRST FAX MACHINE, AND SO MANY OTHER GROUND-BREAK-ING INVENTIONS. THE NEW LEARNING CENTER WILL MEMORI-ALIZE THESE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH A NUMBER OF EXHIBITS, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND INTERACTIVE KIOSKS DOTTED THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY. [AT ONE OF THESE, YOU’LL BE ABLE TO LISTEN TO A RE-CORDING OF THE FIRST ECHOS OF THE “BIG BANG,” FIRST HEARD BY ARNO PENZIAS AND ROBERT WILSON OF BELL LABS, THROUGH WHAT WAS SOON TO BE CALLED THE HOLM-DEL HORN ANTENA.]

OUR NEW LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER WILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, FROM SCHOOL KIDS TO SENIORS. IT’LL HAVE COMPUTERS AND CLASSES AND COM-MONROOMS EVERYONE’S USE. IT’LL BE ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED FACILITIES OF ITS KIND IN ALL OF NEW JERSEY AND, IN ITS WAY, A MODEST ARCHITECTURAL GEM. YOU CAN SEE WHAT I’M TALKING ABOUT — WHAT I’M SO UNBELIEVABLY EXCITED ABOUT — IF YOU’LL JOIN ME AT A SPECIAL “SNEAK PEEK” PREVIEW SESSION FOR THE NEW FACILITY THAT’LL BE HELD RIGHT HERE IN THE BELL WORKS BUILDING.

THIS SESSION WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 IN THE EVENING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, AND I URGE ALL OF YOU MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, AND PLAN ON JOINING US. FOR AT THIS PREVIEW, MR. [NAME, TITLE] OF THE SOMERSET DEVEL-OPMENT COMPANY, ALONG WITH MR. [NAME], PRINCIPLE ARCHITECT FOR THE PROJECT, WILL BE ON HAND TO SHARE WITH US SOME ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS, SOME 3-D MODELS[?], AND A NEW CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE THAT’LL ENSURE THAT THE FACILITY WILL BE READY FOR THE RIB-BON-CUTTING CEREMONY BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR. I KNOW YOU’LL FIND IT WELL WORTH YOUR WHILE TO JOIN US, NOT LEAST BECAUSE OF THE UNADULTERATED PRIDE I KNOW IT WILL INSTILL IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU VIEW THE NEWEST AND PERHAPS MOST PUBLIC SYMBOL OF HOLM-DEL’S RENAISSANCE.

IN CLOSING, I’D JUST LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR BEING HERE, AND FOR ALL THE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE YOU’VE GIVEN ME THROUGH THE YEARS. I’M DEEPLY GRATE-FUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR BESTOWING ON ME THE HONOR OF BEING YOUR MAYOR. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL ON THE 12TH.

THANK YOU.

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