**[EZ SPEECH WRITERS NO. 15927]**

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Remarks by Mr. Greg Buontempo at a public information event previewing the construction of Holmdel’s new public library and learning center.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . IT’S GREAT TO SEE YOU ALL HERE THIS EVENING . . . THANKS FOR COMING. AND A SPECIAL THANKS, IF I MAY, TO FORMER MAYOR, SERENA DIMASO; CURRENT DEPUTY MAYOR, PAT IMPREVEDUTO; ASSEMBLYMAN DECLAN O’SCANLON; TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR, DONNA VIEIRO; AND [ADD OTHER NAMES AND TITLES, IF DESIRED]: THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE! WE’RE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE. AND THANK YOU, TOO, TO MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARIES DIRECTOR, JUDY TOL-CHIN. I KNOW THIS EVENING’S EVENT IS OF MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST TO YOU, SINCE YOU’LL SOON BE ADDING ANOTHER GEM TO THE COUNTY’S WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF PUBLIC RESOURCES. [IS THIS RIGHT?]

NOW . . . WE ARE GATHERED HERE THIS EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO REVEAL PUBLICALLY FOR THE FIRST TIME THE COMPREHENSIVE SITE PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL RENDERINGS FOR THE NEW HOLMDEL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER, WHICH WILL BE INSTALLED DURING THE ONGOING RENNOVATIONS OF THE BELL WORKS BUILDING HERE ON THE BELL LABS CAMPUS.

NOW, I KNOW VERY WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT — TO BORROW LINCOLN’S OBSERVATION AT GETTYSBURG — *“THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE NOR LONG REMEMBER WHAT WE* ***SAY*** *HERE TODAY;”* BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE WORLD WILL MOST CERTAINLY REMEMBER — PERHAPS FOR ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY — WHAT WAS ***ACHIEVED*** HERE ON THE VERY GROUNDS WE’RE SITTING ON RIGHT NOW.

[GESTURING] FOR ON THESE GROUNDS AND IN THESE BUILDINGS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HISTORY WAS MADE. IMPORTANT HIS-TORY. HUGE HISTORY. WORLD-*CHANGING* HISTORY. PULL OUT YOUR CELL PHONES AND LOOK AT ‘EM, WON’T YOU? . . . GO AHEAD, LOOK AT ‘[EM . . . [PAUSE] . . . ALL THE TECHNOLOGY PACKED INTO THAT LITTLE TINY BOX STARTED OUT [POINT TO THE GROUND] ***HERE***, RIGHT HERE WHERE THE BELL LABS CAMPUS USED TO BE. YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE WAS BORN RIGHT HERE? WELL, LET’S SEE; THERE WAS . . . :

THE TRANSISTOR . . .

THE LASER . . .

THE TOUCH-TONE PHONE . . .

THE MOBILE PHONE . . .

FIBRE OPTICS . . .

THE CHARGED-COUPLED DEVICE [USED IN DIGITAL CAMERAS]

THE FAX MACHINE . . .

THE SILICON SOLAR CELL . . .

THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE . . .

THE UNIX COMPUTER LANGUAGE . . .

I COULD GO ON AND ON, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA:

THE MORE THAN A QUARTER-MILLION SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS, TECHNICIANS, AND ENGINEERS WHO WORKED AT BELLS THROUGHOUT ITS 80-ODD YEARS OF EXISTENCE MADE UNPARAL-LELED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANKIND. THESE MEN AND WOMEN, IN THE NAME OF BELL LABS, WON MORE THAN 32,000 U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL PATENTS, HALF OF WHICH ARE STILL IN FORCE TODAY. AND OVER THE YEARS, 11 BELL LABS SCIENTISTS WON THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS. I’D BET A DOLLAR TO ANYBODY’S DONUT THERE ISN’T ANOTHER 500-ACRE PLOT OF LAND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD THAT’S PRODUCED AS MUCH SCIENTIFIC AND TEHNOLOGICAL HISTORY AT THIS PLACE HAS.

THE PHILSOPHER, GEORGE SANTAYANA, OBSERVED THAT ***“THOSE WHO FAIL TO REMEMBER THE PAST ARE BOUND TO REPEAT IT.”*** WELL, WE WHO ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY HAVE COME NOT MERELY TO REMEMBER THE PAST, BUT TO ***HONOR*** IT. AND — THANKS TO A MOST GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE SOMERSET DE-VELOPMENT COMPANY — WE CAN HONOR HOLMDEL’S UNIQUE PAST IN A MOST UNIQUE AND, I THINK, APPROPRIATE WAY.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER THAT’LL BE INSTAL-LED IN THE BELL WORKS BUILDING THROUGH THE RMEAINDER OF THIS YEAR WILL BE PART LIBRARY, PART STATE-OF-THE-ART LEARNING CENTER, AND PART HISTORI-CAL MUSEUM TRACING BELL LABS’ HISTORIC ROLE IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS OF THE 2OTH AND 21ST CENTURIES. IT WILL HAVE DISPLAYS, LOTS OF DIGITAL AND INTERACTIVE MEDIA, HISTORICAL FILM CLIPS, REPLICAS OF SOME OF BELL LABS’ MOST FAMOUS INVENTIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES. TRULY, THIS NEW COMMUNITY CENTER WILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, FROM GRADE-SCHOOLERS TO SENIORS. BUT I’D LIKE TO LET THE PROJECT’S CHIEF ARCHITECT, TONY LOVINO, HAVE THE PLEASURE OF FILLING YOU IN ON ALL THE EXCITING DETAILS.

NOW AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUN-ITY CENTER WILL BE A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME. BUT IT’S BEEN A DREAM WITH A REALLY LONG AND SOMETIMES ROCKY COMING-TRUE PERIOD, SPANNING MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS AND THREE MAYORAL ADMINISTRATIONS. MORE CHANGES IN PLANS THAN I CAN COUNT. MORE HEARINGS THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER. TIMES WHEN THE ELECTORS WERE FOR THE PROJECT, TIMES WHEN THE IDEA FOUND LITTLE PUBLIC SUPPORT — EVEN THOUGH ALL WE WANTED TO DO, REALLY, WAS ENLARGE AND MODERNIZE HOLMDEL’S MODEST LITTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY DOWN IN THE BASE-MENT OF THE TOWN HALL.

BUT IN [YEAR] EVERYTHING CHANGED. THAT’S WHEN THE SOMER-SET DEVELOPMENT COMPANY BOUGHT THE BELL LABS PROPER-TY, AND PROPOSED ITS COMPLETE REDEVELOPMENT. WHEN SOMERSET’S PRESIDENT, RALPH ZUCKER, LEARNED OF OUR HOPES FOR A MODERIZED LIBRARY, HE PLEDGED TO MAKE THE UNBELIEVABLY GENEROUS GIFT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE PROJECT. THAT THEN ALLOWED US TO ENVISION NOT MERELY A RENNOVATION OF OUR EXISTING, [NUMBER] SQUARE-FOOT LIBRARY, BUT THE INSTALLATION OF A BRAND NEW, 18,000 SQUARE-FOOT COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER THAT WOULD BE INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE NEWLY-RENNOVATED BELL WORKS BUILDING.

BUT BEFORE YOU GET TO SEE THE PLANS FOR THE NEW CENTER, I WANT TO INTRODUCE THE PROJECT’S BENEFACTOR, THE PRESI-DENT OF SOMERSET DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, MR. RALPH ZUCKER. [TO. ZUCKER] RALPH, I KNOW YOU’D LIKE TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS, AND MAYBE HAVE A “LITTLE” CHECK TO PRESENT . . .? [LEAD APPLAUSE FOR ZUCKER] . . .MR. ZUCKER . . .

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[CLOSING REMARKS:]

WELL . . . THAT’S IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I HOPE YOU EN-JOYED THIS PREVIEW OF OUR NEW TOWNSHIP LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER, AND THAT YOU’LL SHARE MY PRIDE AT THE FACT THAT THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND FACILITY IS GOING TO BE LOCAT-ED RIGHT HERE IN HOLMDALE, NEW JERSEY, RIGHT HERE WHERE THE ELECTRONICS REVOLUTION TRULY BEGAN.

NOW, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN’T GET IN ON THE SIX O’CLOCK TOUR OF THE BUILDING, I THINK YOU REALLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER JOINING THE 7:30 TOUR GROUP. THEY’LL BE CONVENING AT [LOCATION], AND [NAME & POSITION] WILL BE LEADING THE GROUP.

IN ANY EVENT, THANK YOU ALL AGAIN FOR COMING THIS EVENING . . . AND HAVE A GREAT NIGHT!

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