**[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 FREEHOLDER, SERENA DIMASO; FREEHOLDER GARY RICH; HOLMDEL DEPUTY MAYOR, PAT IMPREVEDUTO; HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS; TOM CRITTELLI; ERIC HINDS & MIKE NIKOLIS; ASSEMBLYMAN DECLAN O’SCANLON; MIDDLETOWN MAYOR GERRY SCHAFENBERGER;: 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 RE-SOURCES.

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.

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 TINY TRANSISTOR . . .TO THE ENORMOUS COMMUNICATION SATELLITES IN SPACE

TOUCH-TONE . . . TO MOBILE PHONE

THE FAX MACHINES . . . TO FIBER OPTICS

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

THE MORE THAN A QUARTER-MILLION SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS, TECHNICIANS, AND ENGINEERS WHO WORKED HERE THROUGH-OUT ITS 80-ODD YEARS OF EXISTENCE MADE UNPARALLELED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 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 AS 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 DISTINC-TIVE PAST IN A MOST UNIQUE AND, I THINK, APPROPRIATE WAY.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER THAT’LL BE INSTAL-LED HERE DURING REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR WILL BE PART LIBRARY, PART STATE-OF-THE-ART LEARNING CENTER, AND PART HISTORICAL 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 LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER WILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, FROM GRADE-SCHOOLERS TO SENIORS. A NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL, INFORMATIONAL, AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS WILL BE OFFERED THROUGOHOUT THE FACILITY, ALL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE OPENING, WE’LL PUBLISH A SCHEDULE OF THE CENTER’S INITIAL PROGRAM OFFERINGS. AND WE’RE ALSO PLANNING SOME VERY SPECIAL EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTER’S GRAND OPENING ON , SO PLEASE “STAY TUNED” FOR AN UPDATE FROM ME FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

NOW AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS NEW LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER WILL BE A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ALL OF HOLMDEL. BUT IT’S BEEN A DREAM WITH A LONG AND SOMETIMES ROCKY COMING-TRUE PERIOD, SPANNING MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS, THREE MAYORAL ADMINISTRATIONS, AND THE UNTOLD HOURS OF VOLUNTEER LABOR PUT IN BY THE PROJECT’S ORIGINAL VISION-ARIES [FIRST AND LAST NAMES], AND LATER MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE [NAMES, IF APPROPRIATE]. BUT EVEN AS OUR VISION FOR RENNOVATING OUR TOWNSHIP’S LIBRARY WERE FALLING INTO PLACE, THINGS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY IN 2012.

THAT’S WHEN THE SOMERSET DEVELOPMENT COMPANY PUR-CHASED THE BELL LABS PROPERTY, AND PROPOSED ITS COM-PLETE REDEVELOPMENT. WHEN SOMERSET’S PRESIDENT, RALPH ZUCKER, LEARNED OF OUR HOPES FOR A MODERIZED LIBRARY, HE PLEDGED TO MAKE AN UNBELIEVABLY GENEROUS GIFT TO HELP UNDERWRITE THE PROJECT. THAT GIFT, OF COURSE, THEN ALLOWED US TO ENVISION NOT MERELY A REN-NOVATION OF OUR EXISTING, 4,000 SQUARE-FOOT LIBRARY, BUT THE CREATION OF A BRAND NEW, 18,000 SQUARE-FOOT COMMUN-ITY 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 CONVEN---ING AT [LOCATION], AND [NAME & POSITION] RALPH ZUCKER, PRESIDENT OF SOMERSET DEVELOMENT ALONG WITH TOM MICHNEWICZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF SOMERSET DEVELOPMENT 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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Greg,

I cannot urge you strongly enough to consider omitting any reference to fundraising at this event. This event is supposed to be about symbolically *giving* something to the community; my gut feeling is that it’d be neither psychologically nor politically expedient to then be heard as *taking away* something in the same breath (i.e., by tacitly asking the community for donations). If you think it’s critical, then perhaps you can “wing” this part of the speech on your own. -ed