



# PRESS RELEASE

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## The Contrast Between SP mayor candidate Matt Anesh and his opponent

<b>MATT ANESH (R)</b>	<b>MIKE ENGLISH (D)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Taxes in South Plainfield dropped by \$178 for the average home this year under Anesh and the GOP council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English raised taxes 55% in one year when he was mayor, in 1983. Source: 1983 Borough Audit</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under GOP control, borough operating expenses are lower today than two years ago. In 2008 they were \$10,307,438. In 2009 they were \$10,348,247. This year they are \$10,002,429 (despite contractual increases).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spending under English rose nearly a million dollars in one year. Source: 1983 Borough Audit</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anesh and his team reduced the size of the Borough workforce by 15% using attrition, transfers, and job sharing.</li> <li>▪ Under GOP control, the Borough's bond rating was one of few in New Jersey to improve, which allowed the council to refinance debt at less than one percent interest and producing a significant savings.</li> <li>▪ Bidding of the Borough's recycling plans saved \$40,000 this year (with similar savings in the next few years).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As head of the Housing Authority, English wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on a failed senior housing project that never got built. He quit the Authority in August 1992, saying he wanted to spend more time with family. (Senior housing using a different plan was completed a decade later by others).</li> <li>▪ The same month English quit, then-News Tribune called the Housing Authority an emblem of what people hate about government." (8/22/94). In the same paper, English said "[i]n hindsight," his plan "was a mistake." (8/21/94).</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Borrowing is down more than 30% under just two years GOP control (2008, 2010).</li> <li>▪ GOP Councilman Ray Rusnak renegotiated the Teamsters contract and reduced starting salaries by 30%. This will save the Borough hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next decade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English criticized borrowing when he ran in 1982 and then borrowed \$515,000 for various projects after getting elected.</li> <li>▪ English criticized spreading the cost of unprecedented employee retirements this year over three years (a unanimous bipartisan vote). These retirements depleted 40% of accrued time.</li> <li>▪ English has criticized sick and vacation-time payouts, but he didn't try to change the rules when he was mayor. If he had capped them back then, the town would not have faced these large payouts, some of which exceeded \$100,000.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under a team led by Matt Anesh and GOP Councilman Ray Rusnak, the proposed \$100 school tax increase was reduced to slightly less than flat.</li> <li>▪ The budget recommendations, which received bipartisan support, did not mean one less teacher or program. In fact, the council suggested ways to bring back teachers and programs, which is now happening. (In all, the team cut \$1.2 million from the budget and suggested another \$800,000 in savings to bring back teachers and programs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While on the school board, English voted his first year for a five-point tax increase.</li> <li>▪ His second year on the board (2005), English voted for the biggest tax increase in school-board history--\$375 for the average home. Despite saying the increase was needed, huge surpluses developed in the years that followed.</li> <li>▪ English became BOE president in April 2005 and then resigned from the board four months later, saying he wanted to spend more time with family.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Matt Anesh is a Vice President with a Fortune 100 financial firm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English is a former teacher and recreation director who used his part-time years on the council and as mayor to retire with a full pension</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As part of the Council in 2008, Anesh used the public works department to pave Metuchen Road, which takes several hundred cars a day off Oak Tree Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ English proposed paving Metuchen Road in 1982 when he was running for mayor, but never did.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anesh started the innovative <i>Safe Streets, Safe Kids</i> program, which works to reduce dangerous speeding on cut-thru streets and to make routes to schools safer. The program is expanding this year with bipartisan support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In February, English is proposed a \$3 million expansion of the PAL recreation center. He said he would raise half the amount through private donations but has not raised anything to date. He now says he will suspend fundraising until after the election.</li> </ul>