



# THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLSTONE

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
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Fiore Masci  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
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CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR  
Maria Dellasala

For Immediate Release:  
October 26, 2017

I am happy to report, through the collective efforts of your Mayor, Michael T. Kuczinski, Deputy Mayor, Fiore Masci, and the rest of the Township Committee; who, in concert with the valuable support of Assemblyman Ron Dancer, Assemblyman Rob Clifton and Senator Sam Thompson, have come to an effective, efficient & speedy resolution to the Mentor Group Home problem that has recently plagued our town and victimized our residents.

On Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, Mayor Mike Kuczinski, Committeeman Gary Dorfman and Assemblyman Ron Dancer, engaged in a detailed telephone conference call with the Mentor Group Home Management and high ranking officials of the NJ Dept of Children and Family Services (DCF). On the call, all relevant facts related to the Mentor Group Home located at 201 Stillhouse Road in Millstone Township were discussed along with demands for a speedy and efficient resolution as outlined at our October 18<sup>th</sup> Township Committee meeting. As a result of these efforts, I can now confirm that the Mentor Group home at 201 Stillhouse Road in Millstone Township will have its contract to operate with DCF terminated and will be expediently relocating all youths residing there.

Although the DCF rejects any assertion that children with behavioral-health needs are unsuited for a particular community, that the children are predisposed to criminal conduct, or that their presence is a detriment to the community, they do recognize the fact that the homes supervision failures; allowing the alleged conduct to occur are undeniably serious and deeply regrettable. They believe that these supervision failures irreparably harmed the homeowner's relationship with the community and created an environment that was detrimental to the homes treatment mission and the residents of the community.

In addition to the closure of the 201 Stillhouse Road Treatment Home, DCF, in consultation with Community Leaders including the Mayor and legislative representatives agreed on several other measures to restore community confidence and improve mutual outcomes.

Prior to the full closure of the 201 Stillhouse Road treatment home, (which is intended to be finalized quickly), the residents will be re-located to other facilities outside of Millstone Township. At the time of this press release, two residents of the home have already been removed.

*"An Environmentally Concerned Community"*

DCF and the Mentor Group will continue to cooperate with the NJ State Police investigation of the July and October incidents.

Upon termination of the contract for 201 Stillhouse Road Treatment home, the license for that program will be revoked. No DCF-sponsored program will be relocated to that site. (This property will be sold as a normal ordinary, residence, regulated by our existing Township rules and ordinances).

The DCF Office of Licensing (OOL) will implement an accelerated inspection and corrective action program at the remaining homes in Millstone Township. This will include special focus on resident supervision and other issues discussed at October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Township Committee meeting, as well as follow-up conversations. Additionally, all corrective action plans and inspection reports with legally required redactions, to protect resident identities will be made available directly to the Mayor and Township Committee via arrangement with OOL and without need for an OPRA requests.

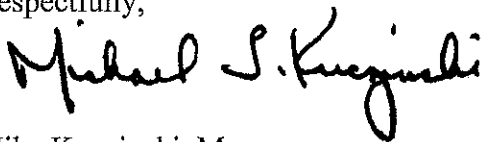
DCF will continue to examine this program. Further remedial steps, if warranted, will be communicated as permissible to the Mayor and Township Committee.

The NJ Mentor Group will continue to address claims for property theft or damage, allegedly by residents of its programs and connected to the July and October, 2017 Incidents: Questions or concerns can be addressed to: Joanne Kirk, MS, Exec Dir – NJ MENTOR/REM NJ (Northern Office) 80 Cottontail Lane, Suite 330, Somerset, NJ Phone: 732-627-9890.

Finally, in addition to all of the above actions that are taking place as I send this message, Your Township committee will continue to work with our assembly members Ron Dancer and Rob Clifton as they draft legislation that will provide municipalities like Millstone with increased powers to police these types of facilities within our borders.

On behalf of myself, Mayor Michael T. Kuczinski, Deputy Mayor Fiore Masci, Committee persons Gary Dorfman, Nancy Grbelja and Robert J. Kinsey along with all the support and great working relationship we have with Assemblyman, Ron Dancer, Assemblyman Rob Clifton and Senator Sam Thompson. We are happy to provide all of our residents in Millstone Township with this fantastic news and hope that we can all now be confident in the safety of our town and resume the enjoyment that our quite, rural and picturesque town brings to us all. We are proud of our community members and thank you for sharing your concerns. We work hard on your behalf to keep all of what we come to expect and deserve.

Respectfully,



Mike Kuczinski, Mayor