

Charles Crown
Raritan, New Jersey

May 27, 1998

Dear Resident:

I want to be up front with you – I am writing this letter because Raritan Mayor Marcia Karrow is running for freeholder and, as a voter, you need to be aware of her conduct in recent months. The following disturbing news about events that have taken place in Raritan Township caused me to write this letter to bring this news and these events to your attention.

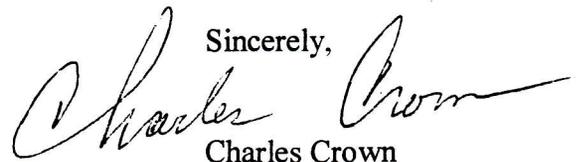
As an employee of Raritan Township, I have worked with Marcia Karrow since she was elected to the township committee four years ago, and I continue to work with her in her capacity as Raritan's mayor. In January, as mayor, Ms. Karrow advised Raritan Township to purchase a piece of land on Beck's Boulevard, lot number 15.01, block number 85 – as shown on the tax map of Raritan Township. This property was owned by her close and longtime friend, Renay Solomon and Erick Development, Inc. Karrow succeeded in getting the township to purchase the land for \$910,500.

Renay Solomon and Erich Development, Inc., owed approximately \$275,000 in back taxes to Raritan Township on this property. The two biggest developers in the state, Hovanian and Toll Brothers, have built developments on either side of this property. The developers have chosen not to purchase this property. Why didn't Mayor Karrow direct a municipal foreclosure on the property because of the outstanding taxes? What reason was there to buy this land to protect open space when developers chose not to buy it because there are more desirable pieces to develop?

The Mayor needs to be asked if it is true that the township engineer is drawing up plans to build a road, a bridge and lay drainage pipes through the property. Isn't open space supposed to be undeveloped?

This purchase was wrong for Raritan Township. I believe it was an abuse of the public's desire to protect open space. The first piece of land Mayor Karrow has preserved since she has been mayor was owned by her friend who owed over a quarter of a million dollars in delinquent property taxes. I believe this is a matter of ethics and judgement. Did Karrow deceive the township committee and the public? It troubles me to write this letter, however, the risk of Karrow doing this as a freeholder is too great for me to remain silent.

Sincerely,



Charles Crown