

# Mayor's Message

## March 2008

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Lincoln Park's former chief financial officer, who resigned last month to take the same position in Rockaway Township, was charged on February 14<sup>th</sup> with stealing over \$10,000.00 from a borough bank account. Dennis Gerber who was hired by the borough 10 years ago was charged with official misconduct and theft.

Mr. Gerber tendered his resignation on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and was asked to vacate his office that day. On the next day of business, Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, borough employees in the finance department received bank statements which showed questionable transactions. The Borough Administrator and I were provided with the statements for review and subsequently notified the police department that there was a possibility of misconduct. At question was the apparent diversion of funds from a borough account which Mr. Gerber made directly to himself.

The Mayor's Office immediately notified the Lincoln Park Police Department, which resulted in a joint investigation with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

The initial phase of the investigation revealed that Mr. Gerber misappropriated Borough funds for his personal benefit, in an amount exceeding \$10,000.00.

Mr. Gerber was arrested and charged by members of the Lincoln Park Police Department and the Morris County Prosecutors Office. The investigation is continuing.

***We are expecting that this is an isolated occurrence of devious behavior by one individual. However, the residents of Lincoln Park can be assured that we are dedicated to investigating any and all possible ways Mr. Gerber may have had the potential of additional abuse in the ten years since he was hired to be the CFO of the borough.***

***Any deceit by a public employee is a tremendous insult to the community which that individual has pledged to serve. No matter how large or small the dollar amount may be, deception by a borough employee will not be tolerated. Early last year, during my first few weeks as mayor, I responded to a resident inquiry about possible corruption in Lincoln Park. My response at the time was that, although there were no obvious signs of dishonesty, I was committed to constant vigilance in all areas of borough operations and guaranteed swift, strong action if any betrayal of the public trust was found.***

One of the most successful means which the borough has to get important news and information immediately to our residents is through the newsgroup email service. Please make sure that you are signed up for this great tool and also encourage your friends and family in town to subscribe. News, updates and special events information from the borough are often sent directly to residents via email. Subscription requests for the newsgroup service can be found at the bottom of the home page of the Borough of Lincoln Park, [www.lincolnpark.org](http://www.lincolnpark.org).