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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE BY:

Mayor Pasquale Menna

Councilwoman Kathy Horgan

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Councilwoman Kate Triggiano

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We are aware of the "Save Our Seniors" rally today. We are disappointed that, instead of debating and discussing this issue with us in a Council meeting, Councilmen Zipprich and Ballard have chosen to drag Red Bank backwards into alarmist politics instead of reasoned solutions. We are stunned that sitting councilmembers would politicize our senior citizens, and call them to a rally in the middle of a pandemic, for their own political aggrandizement.

Beyond our dismay at such a display, for far too long, Red Bank has made knee jerk decisions based upon individuals' political ambitions, rather than sound policy. That is why we have a Borough Hall that's too small, a DPU yard that's too old, and a Senior Center that's unusable.

Presently, Councilmen Zipprich and Ballard are demanding that the Red Bank Borough Council immediately spend over \$600,000 to patch-up one public building, while misinforming our seniors and the public about the situation. This supposed "solution" does nothing to remedy Red Bank's widespread problems across multiple public facilities.

The truth is that the entire Council has been working for more than a year with the Borough Administrator and our Redevelopment Agency to determine a financially feasible solution to all of our facility issues.

Might the new Senior Center end up in a different public building? Maybe, if that's better for our seniors and more cost effective for our residents.

May we end up renovating the current Senior Center? That's a possibility too, if that's better for our seniors and the best option for taxpayers.

Continuing to band-aid or make snap judgments about Red Bank's big problems is how we inherited big problems. It's time for a change. We will continue to work to find the best solution for our seniors and our taxpayers and we will not cave to pressure from those who have placed their own popularity over what's best for our residents and taxpayers.

When options for our facilities are prepared by our Borough Administrator and his staff, we pledge to involve stakeholders from the community, and transparently present all plans for public input at a workshop meeting prior to any meeting where a vote will be held.

While we continue to study this issue, we have arranged a lease at Trinity Episcopal Church, which is ADA accessible, and safe for our senior activities. We invite anyone who would like a tour of the temporary facility, or needs more information on our senior services to contact 2021 Senior Center Liaison Councilwoman Kate Triggiano.

We care about our seniors - so much that we want to get their new center perfect, not just politically convenient.