

DOMINO EFFECT- RISING COSTS CAN IMPACT PMUA RATE STABILITY

The economy is priority one at the highest levels of national and state government. It affects all aspects of business and industry; and the greatest impact is on the everyday worker and family. Like falling dominoes, rising cost intensify the economic downturn which, in turn, is affecting all of us.

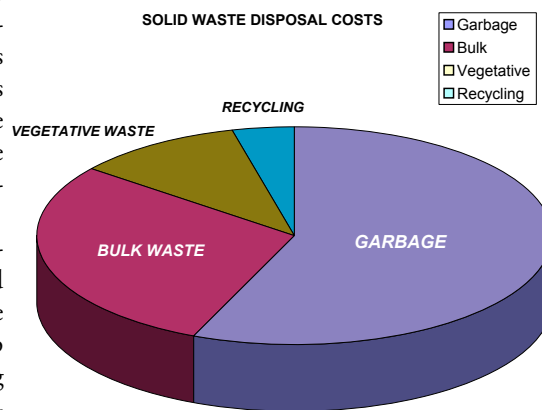
Like any business, increasing cost challenges our ability to provide affordable and comprehensive services. In the past, we have managed to hold our rates stable for up to 3 years at a time. Now, however, rising cost and a poor economy calls for reassessment of all of our strategic operating plans. We are evaluating opportunities to reduce the impact of higher cost on operations & services.

Unprecedented Fuel & Oil Costs

PMUA vehicles service each residential property at least 3 times a week and often more. Our fleet of garbage & sewer equipment, inspections and supervisory service vehicles all require fuel, oil and lubricants. High fuel prices significantly increase our operating cost. Recent decreases help, but cost for diesel, hydraulic oils & lubricants are still elevated. We are evaluating fuel additives, a bulk fuel storage facility and are reviewing alternative fuel use.

Fleet Maintenance Cost

Fleet service vehicles are older and require major maintenance for normal operation. Costs rise as equipment ages. Frequent in-service breakdown cause higher repair cost, and also reduces our operating efficiency. We have begun replacing older high maintenance equipment with newer equipment. To minimize repair costs, investment in newer replacement vehicles and plans for a vehicle repair facility at Cottage Place are in the works as funds become available.



Solid Waste Operating Cost

Collection, processing, transport and disposal cost dominates our solid waste operations. Waste disposal is mandated and costs are fixed independent of PMUA control, except for recyclables. Annually the PMUA handles over 35,000 tons of municipal solid waste with the greater percentage being household garbage. Over the last 3 years we exceeded our household waste tonnage limit. Excessive tonnage results in cost penalties of as much as a 50% increase over the usual rate for garbage disposal. We urge all residents to increase the source separation of recyclables.

We look to double our recycling volume to reduce our household waste tonnage, and eliminate disposal surcharges. Recycling will also increase revenues to help offset rising operating cost.

Sewer Operating Cost

Sewer conveyance and treatment charges, and the lease payment to the City are the dominate costs of our sanitary sewer operations. Like solid waste, these charges are independent of PMUA control and pass directly to customers.

Major capital expenditures at the treatment facility in Middlesex will soon increase treatment costs. Our sewer fees to PMUA customers is directly linked to water usage, thus residents can reduce service costs by reducing water usage.

Corporate Insurance

Liability and employee health benefit/ insurance are mandatory operating necessities. Service reliability and stability in rates are dependent on good insurance coverage. In this economy all insurance costs are escalating. PMUA annually evaluates our insurance coverage needs and shop comparatively for cost effective insurance providers. We also provide an active safety and risk management unit to review operating procedures, and provide training in order to avoid costly accidents and injuries which drive up costs.

Service and Program Efficiency

Heart and soul of the PMUA is a diverse, talented and dedicated staff, serving you daily. Most are also residents. They live, shop, worship, play, rent or pay taxes here. Many are long term staff who helped build PMUA. As we invest in equipment and facilities for more efficient



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DR. GERALD LAMONT THOMAS PASTOR OF SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH



Rev. Gerald Lamont Thomas, PhD. is the Pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield.

He was called to Shiloh in 1997. One of his many major accomplishments while being at Shiloh has been the building of a state of the art church that provides seating for 1,100 people, a Community Life & Cultural Arts Center, gymnasium, nursery and a food/clothing pantry. In March of 2005 the Shiloh Baptist Church held its first worship service in the new building.

Through his leadership, Pastor Thomas opened the Union County TEAMS Charter School at Shiloh in 2005 which serves 180 students in grades K-8. The school's primary focus is on technology, engineering, architecture, math and science which Pastor

Thomas observed was necessary to increase minority participation in the construction trades. The school has been a positive force in the community.

The Shiloh congregation works with the community and its youth to improve the quality of life for its people. Shiloh runs a food and clothing pantry, hosts a youth group, tutoring program, after school program, and several basketball camps. Recently Shiloh, has formed TITANS, a group which has been put together to deal with the at risk youth population in Plainfield. "You can not spell Community with out Unity", said Thomas. "A sense of community starts with the individuals who live in the community".

Working in conjunction with the PMUA and its mission to improve the environment for Plainfield residents, Shiloh has organized young people to work in the City and has engaged in neighborhood clean-ups throughout the years." Regarding the climate in the City, I am also seeing people returning to the church reaching for moral values getting back to what faith and values are all about in tough economic times such as these".

Rev. Thomas believes that it is all about education. "Take global warming and recycling for example, we need to have the opportunities for people to engage in the issues so they can learn how these issues impact their lives personally. We need to provide information that

will send a message making people understand that these matters will affect them directly. These are not just global issues. Education will help to make people understand that communities like Plainfield need to give attention to these issues that also effect economic and health issues, all of these things are all interconnected. On the local level this is something we need to confront".

"I am also concerned about our current emission standards. What we breathe in has an impact on what happens to our bodies. Looking at the air we breathe and the food we eat is something I am learning about. I would like to create a game plan to deal with the impacts of these factors on the body. There are too many people suffering from illnesses. I am doing my due diligence to be informed so I can inform my congregation on these issues. We need to create a legacy to pass on to our children and need to make the environment better for future generations. We owe that to them, to give them a positive quality of life. Recycling is a beginning but we need to go beyond that".

While giving some words of wisdom to Plainfield children, Pastor Thomas said "Our children must value education. They need to study and apply themselves. Children need to become critical thinkers, take education seriously and become the best that they can be. We as a nation need to be aware of what is going on in other countries. Our children must understand the importance of education".

PMUA NOTICE

**There is NO recycling collection on the 5th Wednesday of any month.
Please do not put your containers out on : October 29th and December 31st.**

**Fall: Saturday Only No Charge Leaf Drop to run November 8th through December 27th.
Contact Customer Service for More Info.**

**No garbage collection on Tuesday November 11th, Thursday November 27th, Friday
November 28th and Thursday, December 25th
due to the holidays.**

HERBERT GREEN PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

In June 2008, Herbert Green became president of the League of Woman Voters of Plainfield. Mr. Green held this post at one other time, 30 years ago, when at that time he became the first male to assume the presidency of a local league. Mr. Green talks with PMUA news about the Plainfield League.

Herbert Green, 83, has lived in the city for 51 years, since marrying his wife Marge, a life-long Plainfield resident. In fact, they live in the home where Marge Green grew up.

Mr. Green joined the local League of Women Voters as soon as men were accepted in the almost-100 year old organization, which is devoted to non-partisan civic involvement at the municipal, county, state and national, and even has an international role. "As a non-partisan and non-political group, the league's primary goal is to promote the informed and active participation of citizens in their government", said Mr. Green.

Municipal league meetings are held at the Plainfield Public Library. They are totally volunteer run, and the Plainfield chapter encourages new membership and participation from residents who want to be involved in their community.

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service, our staff represents a continuing investment in the City's human resources that will pay long term dividends to the City. They are committed to delivering

A primary function of the LWV is voter information forums. A trained LWV moderator from another town conducts the meeting to assure impartiality. Everyone is invited to these free events and is asked to submit questions.

The local LWV buys a newspaper ad to inform voters of the candidates' positions for each forum: Mayor and City Council, school board, and local primaries.

Traditionally the Plainfield League has offered high-quality, thorough, educational programs on issues of importance to city residents. This year, the first theme is education. "We will provide a wealth of information on the public education system in Plainfield by examining this topic in a fair, honest and thorough way", says Mr. Green. Preliminarily, the league will focus on funding for the Plainfield public schools, early childhood education opportunities for city youth, and choosing the best school for your child: public, charter, religious or independent.

According to Mr. Green, experts will be involved in preparing the program, speaking to the audience, and a question and answer session. This program is free of charge to the

the best services to the city in a consistently efficient and cost effective way.

Keeping Rates Affordable

The poor economic climate necessitates



public. The Plainfield library will add additional materials for participants to review before and after the presentation.

The league also conducts voter registration drives and held three successful ones this year alone. In addition, Mr. Green works with personnel at the high school to involve teens in civic and LWV activities. He obtained local donations to pay LWV dues for a high school senior.

Membership in the Plainfield League automatically confers membership in the state and national leagues. Further information about the Plainfield League of Women Voters is available from Mr. Green at 757-1873 or treasurer and long-time member Alice Logie at 756-9682 or on the website: LWVPlainfield.tripod.com.

a reevaluation of our vision and priorities, goals and objectives. We are focusing our efforts on strategies to keep services comprehensive and yet affordable to customers.

Improper Disposal of Grease is a Never Ending Expense Blockages could cause sanitary sewer system back-ups

Sewer operations reports a significant increase in grease related buildup in areas where sewer lines serve restaurants and eateries. Grease in the City sewer lines is a problem which is leading to clogged pipes and escalating sewer maintenance costs.

Adding to PMUA operating costs is the fact that crews must generally clean the lines more frequently, typically during off-hours (at minimum traffic periods). Emergency line cleanings are scheduled to prevent downstream sewer line blockages. These lines are also routinely treated with organic microbes to help prevent formation of grease

obstructions. Treatment costs and off-hours crew operations all contribute to higher operating expenses.



A pipe clogged with hardened grease

Food preparation businesses are required to have installed an operating grease trap in their sewer drain lines to prevent grease from reaching the sewer mains. Large volumes of grease should be collected and disposed of separately, and grease traps must be routinely cleaned and maintained. Grease blockages occur if the traps are not in place, being used or properly cleared. Backups create a health hazard, and result in a negative financial impact on property owners and the PMUA. Businesses who properly gather grease and oil in the traps can recycle the collected materials and contribute to keeping a greener environment.

2008 PMUA Environmental Fair



The 9th Annual PMUA Environmental Fair held Saturday, September 13 at Library Park was well attended by the families of Plainfield and was an excellent opportunity to educate the community on recycling and environmental initiatives in a fun festive atmosphere.

With over 20 vendor resource booths, including artists, environmentalists, and educators, there were several activities for children pertaining to conservation,

recycling and the environment during the fair. In addition, the cartoonists, face painters, magician, rides, live music, food and refreshments made the day enjoyable for all who attended.

PMUA would like to thank all of the companies who made contributions for the fair. A special thanks goes out to our 2008 Bronze Sponsorship contributors Union County College and Verizon.



2008 Bronze Sponsors

Illegal Dumping of Waste Increases Operating & Service Costs

It is unfortunate to note that acts of illegal dumping around Plainfield have continued. The financial ramifications of these illegal actions are contributing to higher operating costs for the PMUA because the costs associated with collecting this excess waste adds up quickly.

What we need people to realize is that illegal dumping contributes significantly to the overall waste tonnage being collected at higher collection costs to the PMUA and subsequently, the residents of Plainfield. As a result illegal dumping contributes to higher operating costs.

The image to the right is a photo of debris dumped illegally on a City street. Acts such as this one are an example of an illegal dumping situation that directly affects costs.

Additionally, improper/illegal disposal of household garbage in and around public waste receptacles continues to frequent the



Orange Place Illegal Dumping

Plainfield streets. Household refuse should only be discarded into personal PMUA-assigned garbage and recycling containers. We reiterate that should a situation occur, where residents have extra trash that does not fit into their carts, that they should contact the PMUA, as there may also be other options available to accommodate them. The PMUA

is here to help citizens if the need arises for additional services.

Remember to follow dumping guidelines and regulations found on your "Do's & Don'ts" and "Recycle Rules" flyers. You may also get this information on the new PMUA Website at www.pmua.info.

Low Generator Service

Custom collection services designed for Small Businesses.

(908) 226-2518

ANNUAL PMUA CONTEST WINNERS



Plainfield School District Superintendent Dr. Steve Gallon III, Mayor Sharon Robinson-Briggs, Councilman Don Davis, & Martin Cox - Plainfield Board of Education pose with some of the winners of the PMUA's Annual Essay & Art Contests

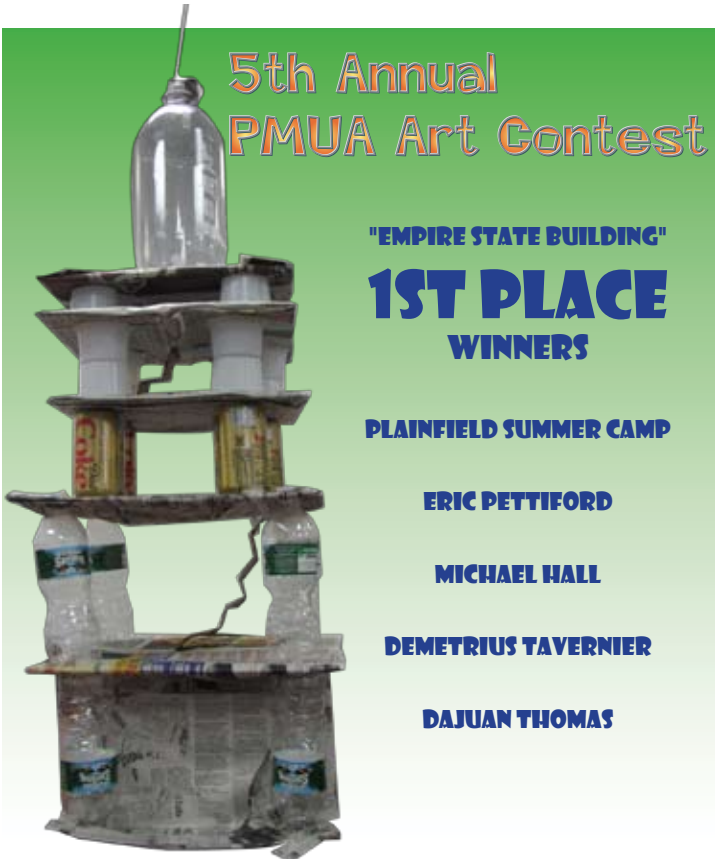
Kindergarten - Evergreen
Gabriels Cantero-Exoj
2nd Grade - Evergreen
Samia Alkhalili

3rd Grade - Cook
Danielle Johnson
Dennis Toscano
Samantha Williams

4th Grade - Queen City
Dulce Lopez
Dominic Montas
Isiah Evans

5th Grade - Evergreen
Malik Alkhalili
Keyshawna Johnson
Barlow School

6th Grade: UC TEAMS
Andrea Williams
Taylor Boyd
Shaquille Copeland



5th Annual PMUA Art Contest

"EMPIRE STATE BUILDING"
1ST PLACE WINNERS

PLAINFIELD SUMMER CAMP

ERIC PETTIFORD

MICHAEL HALL

DEMETRIUS TAVERNIER

DAJUAN THOMAS



Angels of Praise pose for the camera after performing.



The children enjoyed the performers that walked around the park all day.



Judy Ramos
Communications Manager

Judy Ramos thoroughly enjoys her job with the PMUA because she loves to help people. "I am a people person", says Ms. Ramos. Being the Communications Manager, she oversees the PMUA Call Center, Customer Service Department and Dispatch Operations.

Ms. Ramos is responsible for internal and external operations making sure that all company communications run smoothly.

"The most challenging part of my job is working to keep customers and residents satisfied by handling all service requests and complaints quickly. The most enjoyable part of my day is helping the community. The fact that I help solve problems adds to the quality of life for our residents".

Ms. Ramos has been with the PMUA for 16 months. Earning a B.A. in Hotel Management from a University in the Dominican Republic, Ms. Ramos was employed as a branch manager for a staffing agency in Plainfield prior to joining the PMUA.

Ms. Ramos has two daughters and spends most of her free time with her children. What she enjoys most is spending quality time with her family.

Favorite Movie: Grease

Favorite Author: John Grisham

Favorite Vacation: The Dominican Republic

Favorite TV Shows: Prison Break, C.S.I. - Miami and Lost

SINGLE FAMILY & MULTI-DWELLING RECYCLE FACTS

PMUA RECYCLING: Multi-family and single family homes

Living in a single family home or a multi-family units, all Plainfield residents can make a significant difference by recycling more. With the economy down, people are looking for ways to keep as much money in their wallets as possible. Recycling can be a way to do just that.

Recycling can have a direct affect on improving our ability to better contain costs and help stabilize service rates. We encourage Plainfield citizens to make a conscious effort to properly separate general waste from recyclables. Recycling is the law; aside of the more obvious benefit recycling has to the environment.

Multi-family Property Owners & Residents

Multi-unit property owners have been provided with literature and guidelines from the PMUA explaining Plainfield's recycle program. Communicated from the property owner to the tenant, all tenants should know what their particular buildings recycling plan is. If a tenant is unclear about building recycle protocol, please check with your landlord.

Each multi-unit building in the City has been given containers that are labeled for recycling by the PMUA. These bins are clearly labeled co-mingled for cans & bottles, as well as for paper, and are placed at the building to be used by tenants for disposal of recyclable materials only.

People living in multi-family (high density) buildings should check with building management as to where you should dispose of recycled materials and become familiar with the exact location of the bins. Each building has a system in place such as designated areas for recycle containers. It is only in these designated carts that tenants should dispose of recyclable waste.

During the collection process, PMUA is still finding that there is mixed debris in the recycle containers. We urge all tenants to abide by the labels placed on the containers and only put materials in the bins that

are designated to go into each particular container. This would be cans and bottles only- in certain carts and paper only- in others. PMUA encourages landlords to work with their tenants to increase recycling as well as encourage the proper practices that lead to correct placement of materials in labeled containers. In doing so, ultimately these practices will assist in cost containment measures which can lead to a savings for all residents.

Single Family Homes

Each single family home has been given blue recycle carts by the PMUA to be used for disposal of recyclable materials. Using this cart for recyclables allows residents to remove recyclables from their general waste. This helps to potentially reduce costs because the amount of garbage tonnage being brought to the Rahway Burner during the general waste collection is then reduced. This decrease in general waste tonnage disposal fees is where we can ultimately save money. It is that simple.

PMUA would like to remind all homeowners to put recyclables into the blue cart loosely. Items should not be placed into plastic bags inside the cart. Please be mindful of this while putting your cans and bottles loosely into the cart. Note that the cart should hold cans and bottles only. There should be no other plastic materials in the cart. Refer to PMUA Do's and Don'ts Flyer for more information. Non-compliance with guidelines can result in a service fee to the homeowner.

In addition, by placing your recyclables in the blue cart, funds are generated from the recycle tonnage that is disposed of at the recycle center. The more materials Plainfield recycles, the more monies are generated based on the tonnage of recycled material brought to the recycle center. PMUA recognizes that more families are recycling but notes that people need to adhere to proper recycle rules while recycling. Following the guidelines is another way to assist in cost stabilization efforts which can ultimately lead to keeping more money in the hands of our residents.

Rev. Tracey Brown Appointed to PMUA Board of Commissioners

Devoting many years as Pastor and founder of Ruth Fellowship Ministries in Plainfield, the PMUA welcomes Reverend Tracey Brown to its board of commissioners. "I am looking forward to being an integral part of the leadership and helping maintain the excellent quality of service already provided by the PMUA for Plainfield residents".

Describe how your previous experiences have prepared you for your new position as commissioner with the PMUA.

I was a member of the Plainfield Board of Education for three years. I am also part of the Board of Directors for the Middlesex Central Baptist Association serving as 3rd Vice President Moderator. I am the first female to hold this position in the organization. My experience serving on boards, stressing the importance of team work to accomplish our goals, has prepared me to be a commissioner for the PMUA. I look forward to bringing my experience working on teams and boards to the PMUA Board of Commissioners.



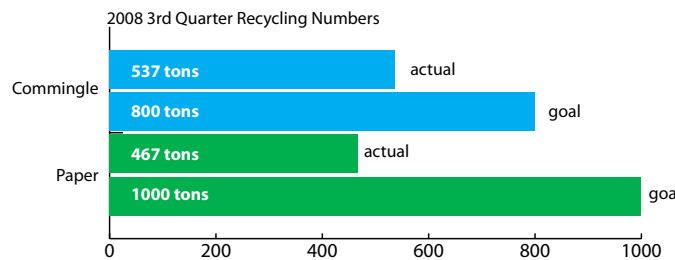
In your opinion, what is an immediate issue you would like to focus on as a member of the PMUA Board of Commissioners?

An immediate area I would like to tackle as a board member is finding solutions to what we need to do to help keep service costs from escalating. Because the economy is in such a bad place, residents and people from all over are having a hard time making ends meet. I would like to work on strategies that continue to keep service quality high and its costs down.

What specific goals would you like to see accomplished in 2009?

As I said, it is very important to keep costs down for our residents. This is something continually addressed by the PMUA and will continue to be worked on in 2009. I also would like to work towards restoring our Queen City back to its prominence of past days where Plainfield appealed to more businesses and shoppers. By keeping it clean and making it aesthetically more pleasing, we can bring more business back to the community.

I am very impressed with PMUA leadership. Working with the board and PMUA executives, I would also like to put forth efforts to ensure the quality of service continues regarding our sewage and solid waste systems. The PMUA's quality of service is top-notch and I want to help implement policies that will continue to uphold that standard.



Recycling is not optional in New Jersey; it's the Law!



Roll-Off Containers

Remodeling your home or cleaning out your garage? Use PMUA portable containers for disposal.

(908) 226-2518

Introducing the new PMUA WEBSITE: www.pmua.info

Please see www.pmua.info to get all of the latest information from the PMUA. Including collection schedules, residential solid waste protocols, recycle procedures, PMUA services, important dates, announcements, community outreach efforts and much more can be viewed on the new PMUA Website.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As in past years, PMUA participated in the 2008 Annual Back to School Jam, donating school supplies and activity books for Plainfield students.

PMUA was busy this summer educating the community on recycling and the environment. PMUA visited the Kings Daughter Day School in Plainfield each Monday to talk to the children and lead them in activities focusing on recycling. PMUA staff educated via work sheets, demonstrations and interactive talks. Some highlights for the children were lessons on composting and an onsite vehicle tour where PMUA



trucks came to the school to show campers actually how they operate.

PMUA Recycle Coordinator visited Calvary Church to speak to its senior group, St. Mary's and Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, to talk to parishioners about recycling and distribute materials on recycle procedures. Visits were also made to the Presbyterian Block Association Meeting where all Block Association presidents gather once per month, the 2nd Street Block Association, Hubbard School Block Association, Supremo Food Market and the Faheemah's Day Care where the staff and students learned about recycle rules.

PMUA: MISSION STATEMENT

To Safeguard our Public Health...

Enrich our Environmental Quality of life...

Regulate, Promote and Encourage responsible actions for a cleaner, litter free city...

Invest in Improving our Infrastructure...

By Providing and Managing environmentally friendly, comprehensive and cost-effective collection, transport, treatment and disposal services for municipal solid waste materials and sanitary sewer.



PLAINFIELD MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY
127 ROOSEVELT AVENUE
PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060

PMUA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Carol Ann Brokaw - *Chairperson*
Harold Mitchell - *Vice Chairperson*
Alex Toliver - *Secretary*
David M. Beck - *Treasurer*
Eugene Dudley - *Commissioner*
James Green - *Commissioner*
Tracey Brown - *Commissioner*

PMUA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eric C. Watson - *Executive Director*
David Ervin - *Assistant Executive Director*
James Perry - *Chief Financial Officer*
Duane D. Young - *Comptroller*

BILLS MAY BE PAID AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

PMUA Headquarters
127 Roosevelt Avenue

Bank of America
335 East Front Street

Rapp's Pharmacy
611 Park Avenue

PAYMENTS CAN ALSO BE MAILED TO:

P.O. Box 23310
Newark, NJ 07189

Please use return envelope for accurate payment processing

FORM OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED:

CASH (Rapp's Pharmacy and Bank of America ONLY)
CHECK (Personal, Bank or Electronically Issued)
MONEY ORDER

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 96
Plainfield, NJ
07060