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NBCUA COMMISSIONERS VOTE TO APPEAL COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETO; CHAIRMAN DATOR STATES CLAIMS ABOUT SPECIAL MEETING FLAWS ARE "ALL ERRONEOUS"

Waldwick, NJ, March 28, 2012 - - In a special 4 p.m. emergency meeting today, the Board of Commissioners of the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority (NBCUA), voted to file an appeal with The Local Finance Board.

The action addresses a Local Government Services Order and challenges the validity of the Bergen County Executive's veto of Authority minutes including the 2012 budget.

The board unanimously voting for the measure stated, "In an ongoing campaign, the County Executive is attempting to compel an independent authority, the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority (NBCUA), to act in violation of state statutes, which govern county utilities authorities."

"To that extent, the County Executive has vetoed Authority meeting minutes on numerous occasions over the last 12 months. She has also falsely accused the authority of violating the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) in an attempt to undermine NBCUA's appeal to the Local Finance Board. There have been two vetoes in recent days alone," they added.

In addition, NBCUA Chairman Bill Dator flatly denied every assertion in a County Executive's veto and press statement regarding a previous special meeting held by the NBCUA Commissioners.

Dator declared, "We are in receipt of the County Executive's veto message of March 23, 2012, and hereby reject it. It is rejected because it asserts non-compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA). The alleged defects are all erroneous."

Dator added, "This appears to be an attempt to prevent the Authority from appealing the order of Local Government Services to the Local Finance Board." The appeal is a challenge of the validity of the County Executive's veto of the 2012 NBCUA budget; hence, her action represents an attempt to veto the appeal.

The NBCUA Chairman gave a point by point denial of any OPMA violations. He noted the March 22 Special Meeting was scheduled specifically to review and discuss the previous order by the Division of Local Government Services and not for any other business.

"There were no violations of law that occurred at last week's special emergency meeting," Dator emphasized.

In other business, Elizabeth Salazer, was officially sworn in and welcomed as the newest NBCUA commissioner.