

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mayor Jon Hornik Calls Upon Major Utilities to Reduce Bills**

**MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (November 19, 2012)** - As we all know and experienced first hand, electric power service was disrupted for a substantial period of time following Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter that swept through Monmouth County. The disruption also extended to telephone, internet and cable service in many locations.

In Marlboro, some residents and businesses were without power for up to 2 weeks. There are residents that still do not have access to telephone, cable and internet. While it is acknowledged that the weather conditions were extremely challenging, the bottom line is that basic utilities were not provided to customers for an extended period of time. There are monthly and other "fixed" charges that appear on utility bills that, if not discounted, would have customers paying for a service that was not delivered.

As such, I call upon JCP&L, Verizon and Cablevision to voluntarily process an automatic discount on their next monthly bill for affected customers. I have heard anecdotally that certain utilities may be discounting customer bills on a per call basis. While the gesture is a positive one, this responsibility should fall on the utility, not the customer.

I will transmit a copy of my request to Governor Christie and the State Board of Public Utilities.

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