

# Brown Sends Letter to Stroudsburg Borough Council

By Senator Rosemary Brown

Due to the public concern raised to my office regarding the mayoral vacancy in Stroudsburg Borough, I offered guidance on their options outlined in state statute.

While the Borough ultimately has the final say, I have recommended they consider transferring their authority to the courts to fill the vacancy. This step would play an important role in restoring public trust and ensuring the process is handled in an impartial manner.

The following is the wording from my letter sent to borough council on Wednesday, January 28th:

Dear Council President Abell and Stroudsburg Borough Council Members,

Thank you for your service in local government. As you know, I do understand the many challenges facing public service. However, given the current situation and the many public concerns raised at my office surrounding the Stroudsburg Borough mayoral vacancy, I strongly encourage the Borough Council to carefully review the statutory options outlined in the Pennsylvania Borough Code, in consultation with your solicitor.

Regardless of whether the board believes these complaints are justified, the fact remains that there is strong, widespread concern about the Borough's recent handling of affairs. In the interest of restoring the trust and transparency of the residents, I urge the Borough Council to consider declining to fill the mayoral vacancy within the 30-day window, forgoing the Vacancy Board process, and allowing the matter to proceed to the Court of Common Pleas. This course of action is authorized by statute and would remove Borough government from the appointment process.

By allowing the court to make this appointment, the Borough would help ensure a more impartial and independent appointment outcome. This would go a long way in rebuilding public trust and demonstrating a commitment to transparent governance for the future of Stroudsburg Borough.

I understand this is a challenging situation. I encourage the Borough Council to seek legal guidance and take the steps necessary to reinforce public confidence in the integrity of the process.

Kind regards, Rosemary M. Brown / State Senator 40th Senatorial District



## Congratulating Volunteer of the Year: Jeremy Hartenfels

By Senator Rosemary Brown

Last week, I was happy to attend as Middle Smithfield Township honored their volunteers and Person of the Year candidates!

Congratulations to Jeremy Hartenfels of Marshalls Creek Fire Company! Jeremy saved a 1-week-old with CPR after just becoming a father himself. He has served with the fire department since he was 16 years old.

This year's runners-up were Danny Younger of the NEPA Society of Archaeology, and Violette Francis of Violette "Stand for the Children" Home.

Amazing work done by all individuals, and all nominees received donations toward their missions. Thank you to Middle Smithfield Township for recognizing the shining examples of our community and always thinking of others!

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