



Office of the Mayor

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK, NEW JERSEY
221 South 5th Avenue
Highland Park, New Jersey 08904

November 16, 2011

Mr. David Rothman, Chair
Monroe Township Planning Board
One Municipal Plaza
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831

Re: Francis E. Parker Memorial Home application

Dear Mr. Rothman:

As you may know, The Francis E. Parker Memorial Home has maintained a facility in Highland Park for many years. I want to convey – both from my perspective as a long time resident and the current Mayor - what good neighbors they have been to Highland Park.

I understand that Parker Home currently is seeking to open a facility in your town. For a number of reasons, I hope that you give serious consideration to welcoming them to Monroe. First, there is no question that our residents have an acute need for affordable, high quality long term care services. As a charitable organization, Parker Home makes these resources available so that our residents can remain in the community. In Highland Park, the Parker at Stonegate facility provides assisted living services to 70 residents in a home setting, with full time nursing care available. There is no question in my mind that the Stonegate facility, in conjunction with the adjacent Parker at River Road nursing home, allows Highland Park residents to continue to safely live in and contribute to the vibrancy of our town. Without these kinds of facilities, residents are forced to move away from their social network and the town that they call home.

Parker is a good neighbor to Highland Park in a number of ways. The facility offers employment for area residents, which strengthens and stabilizes our local economy. Parker participates in research studies in the area of geriatric science. In addition, Parker staff regularly contribute to Borough health fairs and educational events. Finally, our local Parker facility includes a Health and Wellness Center, which is available to eligible Highland Park residents.

I realize that there are some residents who reflexively oppose any sort of development. Based on our experience with Parker, I hope that you will consider the many benefits that this facility will create for your residents and the greater good that it will bring to your community.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Nolan
Mayor

c: Hon. Richard Pucci, Mayor of Monroe Township