

41115
**City owes taxpayers
a refund**

If you overpay a bill to any vendor, you should be entitled to a refund. However, the City of Clifton does not believe in this concept. In a Feb. 23 letter Passaic Valley Sewage Commission informed Clifton that PVSC overcharged Clifton by \$155,798.44 for the years 2011 through 2015 and on March 10, PVSC informed Clifton they would be getting a check for this amount.

Clifton Journal

As we all know, the City of Clifton did not pay this money but rather passed these costs on to homeowners and taxpayers through the sewer fee. Therefore, since PVSC overcharged Clifton and in turn then Clifton overcharged its taxpayers through the sewer fee, it is the taxpayers of Clifton who are entitled to this refund and not the city. However, this council wants to put this refund into the "general fund" so that they may fund their pet projects and deny the taxpayers what is rightly their money. The reasoning is that since there was not a sewer utility until 2014 the refund should go into the general fund (to be used at this council's discretion).

I wonder how many other times PVSC has overcharged its customers and failed to discover this "error." In fact, all of its "contributing municipalities were overcharged" - not only Clifton. Time for a state audit to ensure customers are being fairly charged.

As a taxpayer who paid over \$1,300 last year in sewer fees, I strongly urge this council to refund this \$156,000 overpayment to the people of Clifton as

we were the ones who were overcharged. This refund does not belong to the city of Clifton but rather to its residents who continue to get the short end of the stick with these sewer fees. Remember it was last year this council raised our sewer fees over 50 to 75 percent since they claimed PVSC had raised the rates by 12 percent in 2015 to \$10.4 million from \$9.3 million. This council did not question this huge increase and I now have to wonder how much of this increase was due to faulty accounting at PVSC.

I urge each taxpayer to demand the city immediately refund the taxpayers this money. We are the ones who were overcharged and it is our money not this council or city's.

Mary Sadrakula
Clifton