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LETTERS

A bad deal for Clifton taxpayers

Starting a new job in the city of Clifton with 680.75 hours of sick time (from your previous employer) and immediately an additional 105 hours of sick time plus 7 hours of personal time and another 154 hours of vacation time isn't a bad deal if you are the employee. But it sure is a bad deal for the taxpayers of Clifton who must foot the bill. This is exactly what happened when the city of Clifton hired Douglas Johnson on Jan. 11, 2016 as an Administrative Analyst in the Clifton Fire Department. This was done with the blessing of our City Council when they eliminated one of the deputy fire chief positions and created the new confidential position of Administrative Analyst in the Fire Department and hired Mr. Johnson at an annual salary of \$94,098 - all under the guise of saving taxpayers money. However, their calculations failed to take in account all the accumulated time he brought with him from his previous employment in Passaic as well as the fact his new vacation, sick and personal time would be based from his origination start date in Passaic of Aug. 1, 1994 (in other words he started as if he had worked in Clifton for the last 22 years). On March 14, 2016, the city of Clifton moved Mr. Johnson and changed his title to Municipal Head of Personnel Of-

fice.

This was possible due to a little known NJ Civil Service Commission Program called Intergovernmental Transfer Program in which a civil service employee is allowed to transfer via this program to another municipality within one year following a layoff and all accumulated seniority and unused sick time will transfer with the employee to the receiving municipality as long as all three agree to this transfer - the sending agency

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(Passaic), employee (Douglas Johnson) and receiving agency (Clifton).

This was a great deal for the taxpayers of Passaic since they did not have to foot the bill for the 97.25 days of sick time (or 680.75 hours) he had accumulated while working for Passaic. Unfortunately, this was a bad deal for the taxpayers of Clifton as we now have to foot

this bill. Additionally, this 680.75 can accumulate until he retires - which could be many years from today and would be paid at the then current rate of pay when he retires.

Thank you to our council for yet another bad deal for the taxpayers of Clifton — just like the huge increases in our sewer fees.

Time to clean house at the council level in next year's election. Time for term limits. How many more bad deals can taxpayers handle?

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Clifton