



# City of Clifton

LAW DEPARTMENT  
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February 5, 2010

Ms. Mary Sadrakula  
340 Dwasline Road  
Clifton, NJ 07012

**Re: Schultheis Farm**

Dear Ms. Sadrakula:

The City Council requested that I write to you concerning your recent letter to the editor in order to convey their response to your question made therein and hopefully clarify any misunderstanding.

First, please note that while Council members may have expressed their intention to rebid, the Council has not yet passed a resolution authorizing the rebidding and is awaiting approval from Green Acres. As you know, Green Acres is now rethinking the issues which you raised with them, since their initial approval of the proposed lease.

The area of concern to the Council was your statement, "I must now ask why the Council is acting in such an obvious way to tailor fit this lease to Garden State Property Maintenance." The Council has been seeking to honor the wishes of the neighbors that Schultheis Farm continue as a working farm with the required public access, rather than as a public recreational use. The City has gone to great lengths to ensure that the availability of the farm was publicized to as many possible interested entities as possible, both through newspaper publicity, as well as sending notices of the public bidding to over 40 farm-related establishments. Additionally, besides posting the full bid specifications on-line, complete bid specifications were mailed to any entity that had expressed even the remotest interest in bidding on the lease. The City Council has no vested interest whatsoever in having Garden State Property Maintenance awarded the lease. From the beginning, it was believed that a long term was essential to the economic viability of a lease in view of the initial capital investment any farmer would have to make in conditioning the soil. When the initial bidding was unsuccessful, a meeting was scheduled where all interested bidders were invited to comment and make suggestions. Changes that were made in the successive rounds of bidding were made available to all potential bidders with the hope that it would make leasing the farm feasible to many potential bidders. Accordingly, the Council has consistently sought to uphold the provisions of open public bidding. The Council fully understands there may be political differences over the proposed use of

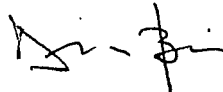
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the farm. However, to the extent any of your comments might be construed that the Council is somehow acting improperly in a legal manner, it wanted to assure you that all legal requirements have been strictly adhered to in order to promote competitive bidding and the public interest.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important matter.

Very truly yours,



**DAVID R. BRUINS**  
First Assistant Municipal Attorney

DRB/dc

cc: Mayor and Municipal Council  
Albert Greco, City Manager  
Matthew T. Priore, Municipal Attorney