



March 15, 2011

Dear Hoboken St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee,

First, I want to thank you for organizing such a beautiful St. Patrick's Day parade. I was incredibly proud of our community as I marched along Washington Street during this great celebration of Irish heritage.

Unfortunately as you know, the events surrounding the rest of the day dishonor the true meaning of the day and do not reflect well on our community or the dedication and hard work of the parade committee.

Most importantly, as Mayor, it is my ultimate responsibility to keep our community safe. Despite re-instituting a zero tolerance policy, bringing in more than 100 outside police officers, and using a variety of techniques to address issues with house parties, the level of violence and damage done to our City was unacceptable and can not continue. This is why I made the decision to move the parade day to a Wednesday. I am hopeful that this will improve the situation, but if not, we will reevaluate next year and make any additional changes needed.

I recognize that this decision has significant impacts on the parade, including the committee's ability to recruit participants and attract spectators. But I am fully committed to working with you to ensure that this tradition continues as one that our entire community can continue to be proud of.

If you decide to continue the parade, and I hope that you do, please contact me so we can meet and work together to overcome the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

Mayor Zimmer