



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In the fall of 2019, the Borough conducted a review of those lands within the Borough that were acquired, in whole or in part, with public funding and are subject to use and transferability restrictions.

In the course of that review, it was discovered that portions of Block 79, Lot 1.01 on the official tax map of the Borough of Wildwood Crest were improperly identified and restricted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) Green Acres Program.

The Green Acres Program was formed by the NJDEP to establish a system of interconnected open spaces that will preserve and enhance New Jersey's natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment. Once a municipality has received Green Acres funding to acquire and preserve a property for said uses, the property is then listed on the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (“ROSI”) and is subject to certain use restrictions.

The subject property, Block 79 Lot 1.01, is approximately 2.9 acres in size and is comprised of the lands west of New Jersey Avenue, along Sunset Lake, from Rambler Road southwest to Denver Avenue. A portion of this property is home to Sunset Park.

As part of the development of Sunset Park, the Borough received Green Acres funding from the NJDEP. However, a review of the ROSI revealed that only 1.462 acres of the subject property were intended to be subject to Green Acres restrictions. The Borough is now seeking to remove a portion of the parcel which was erroneously included on the inventory list and has consistently been utilized by the Borough for non-Green Acres purposes.

As required by law, N.J.A.C. 7:36-25.3, the Borough will hold a public hearing on March 25, 2020 at 5:30 pm at 6101 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood Crest, NJ 08260 to allow residents to comment on this matter before the formal request is considered by the NJDEP.