

**Informational Session:
Just the Facts about Daniel Rodrick's Toms River
February 20, 2025**



Agenda

- **Who is TRRUE? What is TRRUE?**
- **Elections have Consequences; Petitions**
- **Toms River Council Meetings and Violations**
- **Reduction of Rental CO Requirements and how has RLUIPA affected Zoning**
- **Lawsuits Since Jan. 1, 2024 due to Daniel Rodrick's Actions**
- **Daniel Rodrick and the Board of Education**
- **OPRA Findings and Violations**
- **2024 Top 10 List of Daniel Rodrick**
- **Next Steps and Questions**





Toms River Residents Uniting Everyone – TRRUE is a Continuing Political Committee (CPC) registered with NJ ELEC and a NJ non-profit, registered with NJ Department of Treasury, both as required by NJ Law.

Concerned residents of Toms River, many of whom came together under the Facebook page Toms River Residents for Transparency and the website of the same name, but the group is growing everyday. Twice we have come together to collect over 4,000 signatures for the police ordinance and the animal shelter ordinance, so we know residents of Toms River want and deserve better.



Mission Statement

“To be a catalyst for positive change in Toms River by mobilizing residents to participate in the democratic process, holding elected officials accountable, and promoting a culture of transparency and openness.”



Actions to date

- **Mailer to over 10,000 registered voters in Ward 2 prior to the November, 2024 Election**
- **Mass text message to over 30,000 Toms River Residents in January, 2025 about Daniel Rodrick's Lies**
- **Mass text message to approximately 10,000 Fire District 1 Voters in February, to vote for Cirz & Golden.**



Elections Have Consequences

- Based upon NJ Law, the Recall of Daniel Rodrick could start November 11, 2024.
- Required roughly 18,000 signatures (25% of voters) in 160 days, then an election
- Petition to Change Form of Government, replace all Council and Mayor has started.
- 7 At Large Council Members; revolving elections, they choose mayor and hire manager to run Toms River – Council/Manager Government (Faulkner)
- Requires roughly 7,200 signatures (10% of voters), no time limit, then election.
- Approximately 1,200 signatures collected to date
- Residents don't understand or agree – **INTIMIDATION!**
- Concern about all new Council members from one area of Toms River (current Council has 3 members from Ward 2; 2 from Ward 3; 1 from Ward 1; and 1 from Ward 4)
- May not solve current problem with Daniel Rodrick
- Vote our Ward Supports & Enforce the law!
- What to do.....



Toms River Council Meetings & Violations

- **What is the Open Public Meetings Act (Sunshine Law): gives the public the right to be present at meetings of public bodies and to witness in full detail the deliberation, policy formulation and decision making of public bodies.**
- **Publication of Agenda by the Clerk**
- **Toms River 2025 Council Rules & Regulations for Meetings**
 - **30 minutes, running time, on public comments for second readings of ordinances, each speaker 3 minutes maximum**
 - **60 minutes, running time, on public comments during public comment period, each speaker 3 minutes maximum**
- **Limited Content Forum and is it Legal?**
- **What is Point Content Discrimination?**
- **Value of Public Comment**





Reduction of Rental CO

RENTAL C/O GUIDELINES

Please note that this is only a guide and is not all inclusive

General:

- All open permits/violations with all Township Departments must be closed out prior to scheduling your rental inspection.
- Every single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwelling constructed before 1978 located within the Township shall be free from any lead based paint hazards.

Exterior Property:

- Exterior grounds clean of trash, debris, high grass, weeds & leaves.
- Unregistered/ inoperable vehicles must be removed from the premises.
- Outside of house clean, trimmed & neat. Paint not peeling, chipped, or worn. Free from holes & breaks.
- Roof, chimney, siding, gutters & downspouts all intact & clean with no missing pieces or obstructions.
- Handrails are required where there are 4 or more risers over 30 inches in height & for all stairs used for egress.
- All outside showers must be clean, sanitary & free from leaks & must have proper drainage.
- All bulkheads & docks shall be intact, secured, & free from rotted boards.
- Outside sheds must have locks/latches
- Accessory Structures such as sheds, garages, fences & walls must be structurally sound & maintained.

Interior of Property:

- Ready for occupancy, freshly painted, in good repair, structurally sound & sanitary.
- All surfaces including basement, clear of mold and mildew.
- Carpets, tile, & all other floorings should be clean & free from rips or worn areas. If not, replace & secure.
- Closets must have doors, poles, & proper shelves secured. Sliding closet doors must have door guides secured to floor.
- Must be free from infestation of rodents and insects of any kind.

Windows:

- There shall be at least one window in every bedroom & living room.
- Every operable window shall be easily opened & capable of being held in position by window hardware.
- Windows locking devices should be in proper working order. No loose or missing glass, glazing, chipping or peeling paint.
- All operable windows must have screens that are free from tears and holes.
- All basement windows must have tight fitting covers.

Doors:

- All bedrooms & bathrooms must have privacy doors w/ an operable latch & privacy lock. No Key locks or deadbolts.
- Sliding doors shall open & close freely, have working locks, & an operating screen free of tears & holes.
- Doors must open & close freely & latch properly within the frame.

Appliances & Utilities:

- Electric, gas, & water must be turned on (including seasonal rentals). **If well water, a copy of Ocean County Health Dept. Water Analysis Certificate is required at time of application.**
- All furnished major appliances must be cleaned and operable. (No food is to be left in refrigerator)
- Regardless of season, if you have a heat source, please provide us with a heat certification/invoice from a licensed professional. All fireplaces & furnaces must be inspected/cleaned once per year and a copy of the invoice must be provided with the application.
- All heat outlets must be permanent & secured to wall.
- Plumbing fixtures shall be in working order; no leaks or mildew in any faucet, under sinks & showers/tubs.
- On all self-installed wood burning stove and fireplaces, you must show proof of inspection approval by Toms River Township Building Department.
- All electric must be operable & in safe working order; all switches & outlets must be free of chips & paint.
- GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) must be installed within 6 ft. of any water source such as kitchen, bathrooms, laundry rooms, etc. but not limited to garages, unfinished basements, exterior of home, etc.
- **Please be advised if any electrical work/repairs are needed as a result of your rental inspection, the work/repairs must be conducted by a licensed electrician. (Invoice must be provided).**

Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide detectors, and Fire Extinguisher: Requirements in accordance with NJAC 5.70-4.19 for additional information please see page 3 of rental packet.

RENTAL INSPECTION GUIDELINES

Please note that this is only a guide and is not all inclusive

General:

- Every single-family, two-family, and multiple rental dwelling constructed before 1978 located within the Township shall be free from any lead based paint hazards. (Unless exempt under the law)

Exterior Property:

- Handrails are required where there are 4 or more risers over 30 inches in height & for all stairs used for egress.

Windows:

- There shall be at least one window in every bedroom & living room.
- Every window shall be operable; meaning able to open and close.

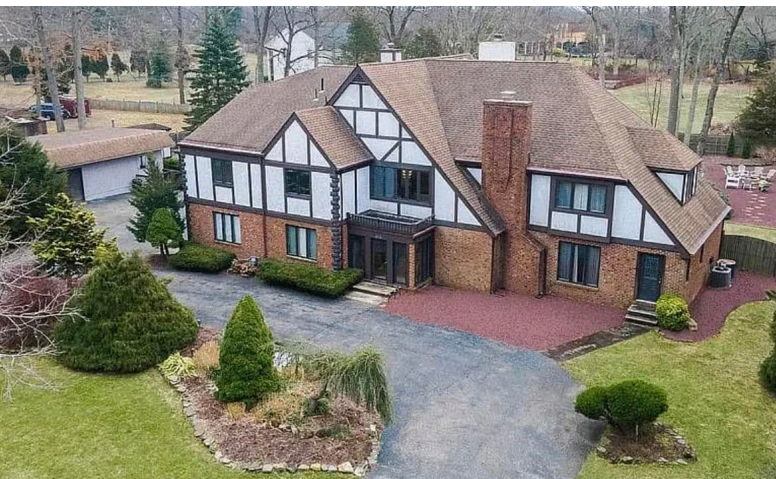
Appliances & Utilities:

- Electric, gas, & water must be turned on (including seasonal rentals). **If well water, a copy of Ocean County Health Dept. Water Analysis Certificate is required at time of application.**
- All heat outlets must be permanent & secured to wall.
- All electric must be operable & in safe working order.
- GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) must be installed within 6 ft. of any water source such as kitchen, bathrooms, laundry rooms, etc. but not limited to garages, unfinished basements, exterior of home, etc.
- **Please be advised if any electrical work/repairs are needed as a result of your rental inspection, either of the following is required:**
 - **the work/repairs is completed by a licensed electrician and an invoice is provided showing proof of the work; or**
 - **applicant makes other arrangements to complete the repairs and schedule a re-inspection of the previously identified electrical issues at a cost of \$150.00. Please note that all electrical issues identified MUST be fully resolved by the re-inspection, or else there will have to be a subsequent inspection for an additional cost of \$150.00**

Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide detectors, and Fire Extinguisher: Requirements in accordance with NJAC 5.70-4.19

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RLUIPA

- **What is RLUIPA?**
- **Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. It is a federal statute that prohibits local governments from enacting zoning and land use regulations that:**
 - **(1) treat churches or other religious assemblies or institutions on**
 - **less than equal terms with nonreligious assemblies or institutions;**
 - **(2) discriminate against any assemblies or institutions on the basis**
 - **of religion or religious denomination;**
 - **(3) totally exclude religious assemblies from a jurisdiction; or**
 - **(4) unreasonably limit religious assemblies, institutions, or structures within a jurisdiction**
- **<https://tomsrivertownship.com/DocumentCenter/View/2570/FAQ--RLUIPA>**



RLUIPA

- <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/press-release/file/1379571/dl>
- <https://www.justice.gov/crt/case-document/file/1376446/dl>
- March 9, 2021 - Daniel Rodrick voted NO against the settlement told a local newspaper that the township should have continued to fight against the DOJ. The Toms River Jewish Community Council (TRJCC) issued a statement claiming the settlement “falls short” of its goal to “alleviate the burden on the Orthodox Jewish community’s ability to freely exercise its religious freedoms” because there may be areas lots are not big enough.
- 2024 - Toms River Zoning Board Approves 2 Orthodox Jewish Shuls: 162 Stevens Road, 4,400 sq feet with basement and 1767 Whitesville Rd/186 Jumping Brook Drive (shul was already operating on the property)





Lawsuits since Jan. 1, 2024 Due to Daniel Rodrick

- February 27, 2024: Paul Williams v. Toms River, Daniel Rodrick, Craig Coleman, Thomas Nivison, George Lobman and Justin Lamb
- April 10, 2024: Jillian Messina v. Daniel Rodrick (individually and as mayor), Toms River and each Council Member
- August 8, 2024: Meridia Toms River 40 Urban v. Daniel Rodrick (individually and as mayor), Toms River
- August 14, 2024: Philip Brilliant v. Toms River, each Council Member, Daniel Rodrick, Stephen Hensel, Jonathan Salonis, Peter Pascarella and Gregory McGuckin
- **November 3, 2024: Toms River v. Silverton EMS/Kevin Geoghegan**
- December 24, 2024: Meridia Toms River 40 Urban v. Toms River, Council, Planning Board and Peter Pascarella
- January 24, 2025: Elisa Warthen v. Toms River, Daniel Rodrick and Jonathan Salonis



CLOSED

by order of Mayor Dan Rodrick
after *60 years* of faithful service
to the people of Toms River



Rodrick Sends Back \$5.6M to Feds Build Grant



Daniel Rodrick and the TR BOE

- Daniel Rodrick as Councilman interfering with School Board Elections and Hiring of new Superintendent
- Daniel Rodrick and Justin Lamb campaigning for residents of Seaside Heights to vote NO for the merger with Toms River Regional Schools
- Daniel Rodrick campaigning for his 2024 Board of Education candidates – Marisa Matarazzo and Diane Oxley; Matarazzo works in the Rodrick Administration
- On January 8, 2025, as Ashley Lamb is accepting her role as President of the Toms River Board of Education, Daniel Rodrick pushed Paola Pascarella to nominate Lisa Contessa for President, with Matarazzo seconding the nomination.



OPRA Findings and Violations

TRRUE's "Fact Finding" Practices

*Multiple supporters of our cause have taken the time to research issues that have risen in our community. Examples:

*Statutes/Laws have been poured over! You can find New Jersey Statutes Annotated at <https://www.nj.gov/state/dos-statutes.shtml>.

*The Township of Toms River Municipal Code outlines local laws that are supposed to be followed by all residents, employees, and elected officials. The searchable code link is:

<https://ecode360.com/DO0275?needHash=true>

*We have also consulted with industry professionals for personal opinions and experiences.

*LASTLY.... We do MANY "OPRA" requests – and no were not talking to Oprah Winfrey! 😊





OPRA Findings and Violations

OPRA

***The Open Public Records Act (OPRA) is a New Jersey law that gives the public the right to access government records. The law applies to all levels of government in New Jersey, from local towns to the state government.**

*** A great reference: “A Citizen’s Guide to the Open Public Records Act”**

[https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/docs/Citizen's%20Guide%20to%20OPRA%20\(July%202011\).pdf](https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/docs/Citizen's%20Guide%20to%20OPRA%20(July%202011).pdf)

***There are exceptions to records they can legally release. There are over 30 detailed exemption rules but a couple important ones that have affected the research we have been doing are:**

- 1. Attorney-Client Privilege**
- 2. Inter-Agency or Intra-Agency advisory, consultive, or deliberative material**
- 3. Emergency or security information**
- 4. Personal identifying**

OPRA Findings and Violations

What the Records Say.....

*Daniel Rodrick gave himself a “raise” by manipulating the deductions from is gross wages for his health care benefits.

FACT: The long establish Township policy states that the employee obligation for “Family Coverage” for those earning between \$75,000 and \$79,999 annually is 23%.

FACT: On January 11th, 2024 Mr. Rodrick received his first paycheck as a “full-time employee.” \$387.59 was withheld from his check towards his families benefits. Here are his detailed health insurance deductions for that check:

Rodrick, Daniel T	1/11/2024	1DE	Dental Plan	25.47	Amt	25.47	0
Rodrick, Daniel T	1/11/2024	1DN	Ch 78-Dental Hlth Care Ded	0.00	Amt	5.26	0
Rodrick, Daniel T	1/11/2024	1HC	Ch 78-Health Care Deduction	0.00	Amt	272.55	0
Rodrick, Daniel T	1/11/2024	1RX	Ch 78 Prescrip Hlth Care Ded	0.00	Amt	84.31	0



OPRA Findings and Violations

FACT: On January 25th, 2024 Mr. Rodrick received his second paycheck as “full-time employee” \$72.35 was withheld from his paycheck towards his families benefits. Here are his detailed health insurance deductions for that check:

FACT: Instead of paying \$10,077.34 for his family’s health benefits in 2024, Daniel Rodrick paid \$1,906.94 = giving himself a \$8,170.40 more in his take home pay for the year.

FACT: OPRA data also shows that \$10,961.72 in health care deductions were withheld former Mayor, Mo Hill wages in 2023.

Rodrick, Daniel T	1/25/2024	1DE	Dental Plan	25.47	Amt	25.47	0
Rodrick, Daniel T	1/25/2024	HLT	Health Care Deduction	46.88	Amt	46.88	0





OPRA Findings and Violations

Other Findings:

*Public records obtained via OPRA request show that

- Mr. Rodrick has used at least 943.4 gallons of township fuel in multiple township vehicles during 2024. (Including fueling his township vehicle two times on a day he reported being absent from his teaching job for a “family funeral.”)
- Mr. George Lobman was paid a salary to be a councilman in December 2024 and January 2025 - despite Mr. William Byrne being sworn in on December 18, 2024.
- Multiple township employees hired in 2024 have no application or resume on file – it is a Township Policy to have both in everyone’s personnel file. To name a few: Jonathan Salonis, Drew Chabot, Mitch Seim, Maria Matarazzo, Phil Stilton (former employee), Grace Piscapo (former employee).
- Drew Chabot “Chief of Staff” has no job description and this position is not in the Toms River Code.



2024 Top Ten List of Daniel Rodrick

10. Paid as Full-Time Mayor with Part-Time Hours
9. Manipulated Police Funding, Staffing and Operations for his own vindictive agenda
8. Lowered his personal health insurance deduction, hence increasing his take home pay
7. Closed Toms River Animal Shelter on June 6th out of spite
6. Vindictively, directed Toms River Dispatch to stop utilizing Silverton EMS and lied about Ocean County Prosecutor investigation
5. Reduced Rental Certificate of Occupancy requirements to benefit his supporters' "slumlords"
4. Drove Toms River Township owned vehicle to Full-Time teaching job in Middletown Township, using Toms River Fuel
3. Vindictively closed the Code Blue Warming Center at Riverwood operated by Just Believe
2. Violated Civil Rights of Toms River Residents by not allowing Clerk to send protect petitions to referendum vote
1. Fired over 70 Toms River Employees and replaced with patronage and nepotism hires

Next Steps, Actions & Questions

- **Attend Toms River Council Meetings and Ask Questions.**
- **Talk to your neighbors, friends, family, in Toms River.**
- **Fundraiser March 5, 2025; 6-9 at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center:**

Toms River Honors the Toms River Police Department:

1 Year Since the Residents of Toms River Successfully Petitioned to Save Positions

- **Stay informed**
- **Register to Vote – Change party for primary by April 16 & Register by May 20**
- **Run for Council – petitions due March 24, 2025**
- **Vote – Early voting June 6 to 8 with Primary Election June 10**
- **Grow this movement to 19,000 and let's RECALL RODRICK!!**
- **Questions!!!**



Thank you

TRRUE

<https://trresidents4transparency.com/toms-river-residents-uniting-everyone-trrue/>

trresidents4transparency@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563055684143>

