AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM:
MAYOR DR. ALEX BLANCO AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Residents & Families:

We want to wish you and your family a happy, healthy New Year. We also want to update residents about important ongoing efforts in the City.

The City recently passed a FY2014 budget that continues to stabilize local taxes. My administration with support from the City Council has made every effort to be fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. In this year's budget, presentation the city auditor confirmed that our local government adopted a budget with a minimal 1.7% increase made possible by efforts to lower the City's operating budget. One example of operating budget efficiency is the City's agreement to join a joint insurance fund with other municipalities that will save over $300,000 in premium next year for the same coverage.

The City is also saving money through the recent reorganization of our police department, which resulted in a significant tax savings, as well as a less top-heavy department. Our police department has also reported that our latest crime statistics continue to show a decline.

My administration is still focused on creating better recreational opportunities and continuing the trend of keeping more of our children interested in arts, sports and community. Currently we are completing construction on the City's first indoor recreational facility. This indoor recreational facility, with artificial play surfaces, will serve the community as a whole for many years to come. The facility will allow use by soccer leagues, including soccer tournaments for youth and adult, as well as holding various clinics such as baseball, softball, lacrosse and football. The facility will be available to host events such as youth boxing, youth wrestling and special community events.

These important park and recreational upgrades throughout the City provide safe places for families and children to enjoy sports, recreation and community. All of our recent recreational improvements have little or no impact on our local budget because of our continued aggressive pursuit of public and private grants through county, state and federal governments and private enterprises.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the support and hard work of our city council in helping to continue the progress in our City. It continues to be a privilege and honor to serve Passaic and all of our diverse communities.

Respectfully,

Dr. Alex Blanco, Mayor

Council President Gary S. Schaer
Councilman Jose Garcia

Councilman Daniel Schwartz
Councilman Chaim M. Munk
Councilman Terrence Love

Councilwomen Thania Melo
Councilwomen Zaida Polanco