

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2017

FROM: All Members of the Rochelle Park Township Committee

Frank Valenzuela- Mayor

William J. Hauser

Michael A. Kazimir

Joseph Scarpa

Michael Warren

Rochelle Park Fights BCCLS Harsh Penalties

Rochelle Park has been informed that BCCLS, the library sharing service that most Bergen County Towns participate, has brought charges against the Rochelle Park Library for alleged non-compliance of BCCLS bylaws. Even though these charges are being challenged by the governing body of Rochelle Park, BCCLS has recommended a severe reduction of privileges for the residents of Rochelle Park.

These reductions and penalties include:

- 1) Rochelle Park residents cannot borrow from other member libraries.
- 2) Rochelle Park residents will not be able to access any digital media from the eBCCLS collection.
- 3) Rochelle Park Library computers will not have access to the internet.
- 4) A statement on the BCCLS website stating the non-compliance with the BCCLS Bylaws.

These penalties can be imposed on our residents as soon as March 10, 2017, after a vote of the full membership of BCCLS libraries. These penalties will remain in place until Rochelle Park "complies" with the requests of BCCLS or until BCCLS leadership suggests removal of our library from membership.

As one of the original members of the BCCLS system, the Township of Rochelle Park has always done our part to support our library and fully participate in the library sharing service. We have not changed the way our Library operates or serves our residents, that was acceptable for almost 30 years. We have complied with all reasonable requests to improve the services we offer at our Library, but BCCLS is relying on a technicality to force compliance and increased expenditure of tax dollars on our residents.

As a governing body, The Rochelle Park Township Committee will do anything within its power to prevent these harsh and unnecessary sanctions on our residents. We feel it is a vast overstep of the partnership agreement we have with BCCLS, and an unprecedented power of a non-governmental entity with no responsibility to any taxpayer.

It is our hope that BCCLS will reconsider their position on this matter and allow for the relationship to continue benefiting our residents and the other member libraries. Rochelle Park is committed to making sure our residents are not harmed by this action and will be able to access all the library services they have come to rely upon.