

PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor's Leadership Saves Middletown Workers' Compensation Office

Middletown----Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano learned this week that Governor Jodi Rell agreed with the Mayor to keep the State's Workers' Compensation office, located on Court Street, open for local residents, employers and employees. Giuliano said, "this is great news for everyone involved. Middletown is centrally located and this area is home to many employers and their workers that need to reach this office. To close it made no sense. I think the Governor saw that and made the right decision," said Giuliano.

Giuliano led the fight to save the office in the face of State budget cuts and legislative proposals to consolidate the Workers' Compensation office system. Giuliano wrote to Governor Rell regarding the potential closure and he enlisted Middletown's state delegation to do all they can could to preserve the office. "If you sustain a workers' compensation injury, the last thing you want to do is travel a long distance to go to a hearing. In addition, you don't want to wait six months to get a hearing. The Middletown office puts this important state service within reach of injured workers. What is more, this office can schedule hearings for claimants within three weeks. Closing the office would have only made life more difficult for employers and workers." said Giuliano.

The Mayor also added, "Sometimes the state acts to save dollars but in the long run the move makes little sense. I think that is the case here. Workers' Compensations District Offices are funded mainly through the employers who pay for the system, so there was no direct savings to the state. So what sounds like a cost-cutting measure in the short term would create long term burdens. Ultimately, I think the Governor heard our thoughts on the issue and I appreciate her for responding favorably and for listening."