

JOHN KAYE
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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August 18, 1998

Lieutenant Cerame Middletown Township Police Department One Kings Highway Administration Building Middletown, New Jersey 07748

## Dear Lieutenant Cerame:

I am writing to inform you that the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office has received another letter from Carolyn Schwebel regarding the enforcement of accessible ("handicapped") parking laws. Ms. Schwebel is again voicing her concerns that not much has been done to remedy the situation. Mr. Schwebel also repeats her request that there be realization of the seriousness of this situation and prompt resolution of the problem.

It has been brought to the attention of the Prosecutor's Office that the violations at the Lincroft Exxon, which have been previously reported, continue to exist. As you are aware, handicapped parking law C. 39:4-138.0 enables county and municipal law enforcement officers or parking enforcement officers to enforce the parking restrictions on appropriately marked handicapped spaces on both public and private property. Violations of this law prevent access and availability of these establishments to handicapped persons. Not only is this an inconvenience, it is also a Constitutional issue. The Americans with Disabilities Acts was designed to protected handicapped persons from such discrimination.

Strict knowledge and enforcement of these laws is essential to notify the public that these violations will not be tolerated. In order to ensure compliance, violators need to be identified and cited for their violations. Furthermore, owners of establishments both public and private must be kept informed of the requirements.

Many handicapped persons are relying on police departments to ensure their safety within the county. Enforcement of this law allows persons such as Ms. Schwebel to enjoy the freedoms and privileges of living in this county. I know you will carefully review this matter and take appropriate action. Thank you for your time and consideration in this regard.

Yours very truly,

OHN KAYE

MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

JK:tlc

cc Carolyn Schwebel

Co-Chairperson, The Equalizers

Chief Pollinger