

VERNOTICO PROPOSES SOLUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL OVERCROWDING

GLATT JUST RANTS !!!

Vernotico: "We have to be proactive to save lives and our City"
Article below is partial reprint from the Summit Observer – 10/4

By Kevin J. Kessler
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SUMMIT — Perhaps the most heavily debated topic in this year's municipal election is the possible illegal overcrowding problem in Summit.

The issue was heavily debated two weeks ago during the debate between mayoral candidates.

Second Ward Councilman and Republican candidate for mayor Michael Vernotico discussed the issue in his recent TV 36 interview as well as during recent Common Council meetings. Vernotico suggested a potential solution where tenants would have to register with the city.

Democratic incumbent Mayor Jordan Glatt referred to this idea during the Sept. 23 debate as, "repugnant."

"I am very concerned about overcrowded buildings in Summit," Glatt said. The mayor admitted that it was a serious safety issue.

Vernotico remained steadfast in his belief that the problem is in need of addressing. He stated that he was made aware of the problem through various meetings of the safety committee, which he serves on as chairman.

At these meetings, Vernotico was told by fire officials in the city about homes they have gone to to stop fires in which there are mattresses everywhere and too much electrical units being used. Vernotico said that the fire officials also found various basement and attic apartments.

Vernotico also said that while ringing doorbells as a part of his campaign this year, neighbors and landlords have approached him about the problem.

"The primary focus on this is safety," Vernotico said. "There is also a quality of life issue coming from the

Vernotico referred to Glatt's reaction as "absurd."

"Why he's making a big issue about this is completely beyond me," Vernotico said. "It is a problem growing here and in other communities. To just bury our collective heads in the sand and hope it magically goes away is ludicrous.

"My biggest fear and concern is that there is a potential here for loss of life in the event of an emergency such as an electrical fire."

.. This issue also places a drain on community resources such as the school system and the fire and police departments.

"For people to say that this isn't an issue is absurd," Vernotico said. "The people I've spoken to in the neighborhoods want this resolved."

Vernotico also noted that property owners within the city are already required to register their names and addresses with the tax assessor's office.

He raised the point that having a tenants' list is not a huge step from what is already done in the city.

"The registration of tenants would be a mere extension of what we already do," Vernotico said.

"I agree that there is an issue on overcrowding," Glatt said,