

## Rothman & Pitman Bring Federal Experts To Investigate Potential Danger From 18th Century Copper Mine

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Rothman & Pitman Bring Federal Experts To Investigate Potential Danger From 18th Century Copper Mines In North Arlington  
Ground Depression Possibly From Mine Draws Concern of Congressman and Mayor

North Arlington, NJ – After hearing from North Arlington Mayor Russ Pitman about a depression in the ground that could be the result of 18th Century copper mines beneath the Borough, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today brought two federal mine experts to examine the site. Since North Arlington faced problems in the past with old mines that caused similar depressions in the ground, Rothman and Pitman wanted experts to investigate the Morton Place site in order to determine the cause of the depression and prevent it from eventually caving in and endangering people and property.

“I am grateful that two of our nation’s mine experts from the U.S. Department of Interior immediately responded to the concerns of my office, Mayor Pitman, and other North Arlington officials and are here today to examine this depression in the ground to see if in fact it is the result of an old copper mine,” Rothman said. “Government’s first responsibility is to protect the people, whether it is working to prevent terrorist attacks or ensuring that people’s homes won’t cave in because of an old copper mine. It is very important that we immediately find out what the source of this ground depression is so that we can fix it and prevent any danger.”

Rothman brought to North Arlington, Mick Kuhns and David Philbin, who are mine experts from the U.S. Department of Interior’s Office of Surface Mines. Kuhns and Philbin were part of the team of mine experts who came to North Arlington in 1989 when several mine shafts collapsed. At that time, they helped cap mine shafts to prevent further damage. The experts are expected to bring detailed maps and a knowledge of the 1989 episode to examine the current depression in the ground and determine if it too was caused by a mine. According to Borough officials, the new depression in the ground resembles the ones from 1989.

“As the Mayor of North Arlington, I am very glad that Congressman Rothman was responsive to my concerns and personally came down to the subsidence site with federal mine experts,” Pitman said. “When it comes to protecting the public, government must take whatever steps are necessary. Congressman Rothman is a great partner in my efforts to ensure the safety of all the residents of North Arlington.”

Rothman added, “I look forward to working with Mayor Pitman to ensure that this depression in the ground is fixed so that the residents of North Arlington are protected from any danger that may exist.”

The North Arlington shafts were part of the Schuylers Copper Mines that were first mined toward the end of the 18th Century. They were last active at the beginning of the 20th Century. During the 1989 episode, 27 shafts were located and permanently capped. However, the shafts were located using old maps that may not have identified all existing shafts.

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