

RESOLUTION 2009-338

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO A PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN TRAINING FUND

Whereas, the Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") Training Fund was created by New Jersey P.L. 1992, Chapter 143 (N.J.S.A. 26:2K-54 et seq.) as a dedicated, non-lapsing, revolving fund, established to reimburse any private agency, organization or entity which is certified by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to provide training and testing for volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue squad personnel who are seeking EMT certification and/or recertification; and

Whereas, the Fund has allowed thousands of Volunteer EMT's to earn and maintain their EMT certification without incurring out-of-pocket personal expense and without the need for funding from their volunteer squad or municipality; and

Whereas, the EMT Training Fund is not supported through the use of any tax money, but, rather is supported by a \$0.50 surcharge on each fine, penalty and forfeiture imposed and collected by the State of New Jersey for motor vehicle or traffic violations and is currently running at approximately a \$1,000,000 deficit per year; and

Whereas, on April 23, 2009, the Department of Health and Senior Services Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) informed the New Jersey State First Aid Council of Governor Corzine's intention to redirect \$4,000,000 from the dedicated EMT Training Fund to the general treasury of the State of New Jersey leaving only a proposed \$400,000 balance in the Fund; and,

Whereas, a \$400,000 balance in the EMT Training Fund is inadequate to meet the annual training needs of the Volunteer EMT's of this State and will result in severe cut-backs of state-paid EMT training for New Jersey's EMS Volunteer Community;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Township of Barnegat formally opposes Governor Corzine's plan to transfer money from the EMT Training Fund, because of the detrimental effect this will have on the availability of EMT training for New Jersey's Volunteer EMS Community; and be it further

Resolve, that the Township of Barnegat opposes the intended re-appropriation of monies from the dedicated EMT Training Fund, which would shift

the cost of Volunteer EMT Training to the Township of Barnegat, the municipality and its residents, which during this time of economic hardship, when squads continue to see a decrease in donations, contributions, and a short fall in fund raising, is fundamentally unfair to those who already volunteer their time to attending training courses and answer emergency calls and to require them to pay for their own training, when they already provide so much to their community, and which will, further, significantly impact the recruitment of new members, as well as retention of existing members since many will not be able to pay for their training; and be it further

Resolved, that the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey are requested not to remove any money from the EMT Training Fund and to return any money to the Fund that has already been removed for purposes other than those specified in New Jersey P.L. 1992, Chapter 143; and be it further

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Corzine, to our State Legislators and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand as Mayor of the Township of Barnegat and caused the seal to be affixed hereto this 18th day of May, 2009.

Township of Barnegat

Jeffrey Melchiondo, Mayor

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand as Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat and caused the seal to be affixed hereto this 18th day of May, 2009.

Kathleen T. West, RMC
Municipal Clerk