

RESOLUTION 2014-218

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SIGN WAIVER PERMITTING POLICE OFFICER EMT'S TO ADMINISTER NASAL NARCAN IN THE EVENT OF AN OVERDOSE CALL

WHEREAS, during the course of the past year the people of Ocean County have been waging battle against the rising epidemic of controlled dangerous substance abuse in our midst, and epidemic which in 2013 saw a 100% increase in deaths caused by overdose in the course of a single year. A significant controlled substance at play in this epidemic is the opiate based substances, both illegal such as heroin and prescription medications such as oxycodone, and;

WHEREAS, in response to this epidemic Ocean County's head law enforcement official, Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, Esq. has implemented a program whereby our police officers responding to service calls for possible overdoses will be trained to administer nasal Narcan, and;

WHEREAS, the Township of Barnegat is in full support of Prosecutor Coronato's initiative and in the course of discussion with our Police Chief about the implementation of the program in Barnegat Township we came to realize that our officers who also hold a State of New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician certification, (14% of our department) will find themselves on the horns of a dilemma, when responding to a call for service which requires the administration of Narcan if our EMT certified Police Officers make the decision based upon the training provided by the Prosecutor's Office, to administer the nasal Narcan, these officers will be clearly acting outside their scope of practice as EMT's, and;

WHEREAS, if these officers, deferring to the scope of practice, decide **not** to administer Narcan, these police officers will be deficient in their duty to act as Police Officers. Either branch of this decision tree leads only to sub-standard public service and exposes the Township of Barnegat and all municipalities of Ocean County with Police EMT's to the very real possibility of a significant increase in unwarranted liability claims, and;

WHEREAS, the administration of nasal Narcan in the event of an overdose is currently available to person's without any medical training, the most comprehensive, commonsense remedy would be to expand the scope of practice for EMT's to include the administration of nasal Narcan, of course with the appropriate medical oversight as is already provided for in the administration of the epi-pen, and;

WHEREAS, recognizing that to accomplish such a comprehensive expansion will require time, and that responding to the current opiate epidemic in Ocean County is of utmost urgency and immediacy, and;

WHEREAS, the Honorable Herb Conaway, Chairman of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee has introduced legislation (A-2770) to address the need for comprehensive reform.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Governing Body of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey respectfully request that, due to the amount of time necessary for legislation to become enacted into law, Ms. Mary O'Dowd, Commissioner of the State of New Jersey Department of Health to exercise the

authority vested in the office of Commissioner to grant a waiver permitting Police Officer EMT's to administer Narcan as part of their scope of practice following appropriate training and with medical oversight.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be immediately forwarded to Honorable Chris Christie, Governor, the Honorable Stephen Sweeney, NJ State Senate President, the Honorable Herb Conaway, NJ State Assembly 9th Legislative District, Commissioner O'Dowd, New Jersey Department of Health, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the municipalities of Ocean County.

CERTIFICATION

I, Sharon L. Auer, Acting Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at their regular meeting held on the 7th day of April 2014 in the Municipal Complex, 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat NJ 08005.

Sharon L. Auer
Acting Municipal Clerk