

## **RESOLUTION 2014-416**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING THE RELEASE OF U.S. MARINE SERGEANT WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED IN MEXICO**

**WHEREAS**, 25-year-old United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and received a meritorious battle promotion to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Afghanistan's Homeland Province with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment; and

**WHEREAS**, following his service to our nation with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan, Sgt. Tahmooressi was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi moved to San Diego, California to receive treatment for PTSD from the United States Veterans Affairs Medical Center-San Diego in La Jolla, California. While driving on March 31, 2014 he mistakenly crossed the border into Mexico after taking a wrong turn; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi placed a call to 911 to report his error, informing the 911 dispatcher that he had three legally registered guns in his possession because he kept everything he owned in his Ford F-150 truck; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi was arrested at the United States-Mexican border on March 31, 2014 and was charged with weapons trafficking. He is still being held in the El Hongo 11 Prison in Tecate, Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi alleges that abuse during the beginning of his incarceration and poor prison conditions led him to attempt suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, PTSD can result in hyper-vigilance, memory and cognition lapses and depression. Sgt. Tahmooressi's reported actions of aggression and physical-self abuse are likely manifestations of his PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi's immediate release would allow him to enroll in medical treatment at a clinic specializing in combat-related PTSD in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Barnegat Committee is outraged that a United States Marine veteran who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan remains wrongfully imprisoned in Mexico.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Barnegat Committee, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey hereby strongly urges the President of the United States to utilize the full powers and authorities of his

office to immediately secure the release of United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody to the United States in order for Sgt. Tahmooressi to receive the appropriate medical assistance for his medical condition.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Honorable President of the United States, Barack H. Obama, the Speaker of the House, John Boehner, US Senate Minority leader, Mitch McConnell, Members of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts and all of the Ocean County Mayors.

### **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 Barnegat Township Committee at their regular meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014 in the Municipal Complex, 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat NJ 08005

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Sharon L. Auer  
Acting Municipal Clerk