

## RESOLUTION 2015-122

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF CEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY STRONGLY OPPOSING ASSEMBLY BILL A4197 AND ANY OTHER EFFORTS MADE BY THE SENATOR OR ASSEMBLY TO REDUCE FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Barnegat takes great pride in its historic character and its interest and efforts in preserving its historical assets. In its early settlement, rich in tradition, Barnegat Township was one of the leading sea ports in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the first land purchases was in 1759, with acreage deeded to the Quakers and in 1767 the Quaker Friends Meeting House was built, is still located in its original spot, likely the oldest building in Barnegat; and

**WHEREAS**, Barnegat Township was incorporated in 1846, then Union Township, development began. Within Barnegat Township there is a historic district with parks, antique stores, gift shops, boutiques, ice cream parlors, restaurants and museums. Barnegat also participates in the Ocean County Historical Trail as two main railroads had depots in Barnegat; the Tuckerton RR Station (also known as the Pennsylvania RR Depot) and the Central RR of New Jersey Depot; and

**WHEREAS**, Sea Captain "Billy" and Marietta Cox, built the first house in Barnegat Township to have electricity and running water, this house still stands at the corner of Route 9 and Bay Avenue. Currently this historic Cox House is the meeting place for community organizations and hosts many special events throughout the year.

**WHEREAS**, The historic resources of Barnegat Township and so many other shore communities have been an important cultural element in making New Jersey an attractive place to live, work and visit; and

**WHEREAS**, historic tourism has been an economic driver for all of New Jersey and certainly for the Township of Barnegat; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts to preserve important elements of New Jersey's history have been fueled to a large degree by the New Jersey Historic Trust and its critical support for important historic elements; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding from the New Jersey Historic Trust has funded projects in our historic districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Historic Trust has also assisted numerous historic buildings and properties in our shore communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Historic Trust has also helped hundreds of historical sites throughout the State of New Jersey in every or just about every county, which are listed on the website of the New Jersey Historic Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2014, New Jersey voters approved, by a 65% to 35% margin, Public Question Number 2, a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment which was designed to dedicate 6 percent of corporate business tax revenues to open space, farmland and historic preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the ability of New Jersey Historic Trust to continue to fund historic projects in now threatened by New Jersey Assembly Bill A4197, from the 216<sup>th</sup> Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, under the old formula used to allocate funds raised by bond issues for the Garden State Preservation Fund, six percent was earmarked for historic preservation and grants, and the operation of the New Jersey Historic Trust (which administers grants made to non-profit and public entities for historic preservation) ; and

**WHEREAS**, under New Jersey Assembly Bill A4197, the percentage of money allocated to the New Jersey Historic Trust for grants and operations will be reduced by approximately 50 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, this change in funding will drastically reduce the amount of money available to preserve New Jersey's important historic heritage; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee urge members of the New Jersey Assembly and Senate to reject this effort to frustrate the will of the voters who overwhelmingly voted in 2014 to support open space, farmland and historic preservation, and urges other towns to adopt a similar resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Township of Barnegat is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the following:

1. Governor Chris Christie
2. The Secretary of the New Jersey Senate
3. The Secretary of the New Jersey Assembly
4. The Ocean County Freeholders
5. All Ocean County mayors
6. The Barnegat Township Historical Society

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Michele Rivers, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Barnegat Township Committee at their regular meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2015, in the Municipal Complex, 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat NJ 08005

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Michele Rivers, RMC  
Municipal Clerk