

## RESOLUTION 2016-145

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING S2775 AND A4215 CALLING FOR AN INCREASE IN SHORE PROTECTION FUNDING FROM \$25 MILLION TO \$50 MILLION FROM THE COLLECTION OF REALTY TRANSFER FEES

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is recognized as a national leader in shore protection, serving as a model for states throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past two decades, a \$25 million annual Fund has served as a catalyst for the state to acquire federal matching dollars of 65% to New Jersey's 35% share for important coastal projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the dedicated \$25 million annual allocation for the New Jersey Shore Protection Fund has supported a unique and successful cost-sharing partnership with the federal government in replenishing eroded beaches along the 127 mile Jersey coastline and 83 miles of Raritan and Delaware Bay shorelines which provide an unsurpassed combination of ecological riches, economic opportunity and quality of life for both residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, miles of sandy beaches, bustling boardwalks and busy coastal waterways contribute over \$19 billion annually or one-half of the State's total \$38 billion tourism revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.5 million migratory shorebirds call New Jersey's pristine wildlife refuges and tidal wetlands home and our bays, rivers, marine estuaries and oceanic habitat contribute to a commercial fishing industry that harvests over 59 different species of finfish and shellfish annually, boasting world-class recreational fishing, clamming and crabbing; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's Shore Protection Program was created to provide for the protection of life and property along the coast preserve the vital coastal resources of New Jersey, and maintain safe and navigable waterways throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey must work with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop comprehensive adaptation plans for coastline communities that include improving navigable waterways, erosion control and increasing flood protection against sea-level rise and the potential for more frequent and energetic storms; and

**WHEREAS**, the \$25 million allocated from the Shore Protection Fund is insufficient to meet current and anticipated future matching costs of the Corp of Engineers and State of New Jersey replenishment projects and other needed coastal projection projects around the state, especially with the anticipated reduction in federal funding for beach replenishment projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barnegat Township Committee calls on the elected officials of New Jersey to increase funding for the New Jersey Shore Protection Fund from \$25 million to \$50 million from the collection of realty transfer fees by approving Senate Bill 2775 and Assembly Bill 4215 in order to meet the needs of future coastal protection projects and to provide a further incentive for federal matching funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey State Legislators, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Jersey Shore Partnership.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Michele A. Rivers, 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 in the Municipal Complex, 900 W. Bay Avenue, Barnegat NJ 08005, on April 5, 2016.

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Michele A. Rivers, RMC  
Municipal Clerk