

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 – 229

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF
NEW JERSEY, URGING GOVERNOR MURPHY
TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR THE HOMESTEAD
BENEFIT PROGRAM AND SENIOR FREEZE
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey (the “Township”) finds that in the aftermath of COVID-19, Governor Murphy issued a series of Executive Orders without consideration to the rights guaranteed by the United States and the New Jersey Constitution, causing businesses throughout New Jersey to be closed abruptly and improperly deemed non-essential by Governor Murphy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the financial harm caused on business owners of the State of New Jersey, and the Township of Barnegat, our homeowners and senior citizens have also been adversely affected by the various Executive Orders and actions of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the imprudent actions and inactions of the Governor, the State of New Jersey is seeking to push the resulting economic impact onto the backs of the tax payers of New Jersey, including senior citizens, disabled, and low and middle income New Jersey residents by virtue of freezing and defunding the Homestead Benefit Program and Senior Freeze Program; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead Benefit Program is open to homeowners of all ages who meet certain income and residency requirements which results in credits to residents’ tax bills; and

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WHEREAS, the Senior Freeze Program reimburses senior citizens and disable residents who meet certain requirements for increases in their property tax bills over a period of years; and

WHEREAS, these two programs combined to assist approximately 680,000 residents annually; and

WHEREAS, seniors, disabled, and low and middle income New Jersey residents will unnecessarily pay more on their property tax bills in the coming months as a result of the Governor's plan to cut aid to these two programs; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby urges the Governor to restore funding to these programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 9th day of July 2020 by the Mayor and the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee hereby urges Governor Murphy to fully restore the funding to the Homestead Benefits Program and the Senior Freeze Program in order to assist those residents who are in most need of property tax relief.

2. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the following:

(a) Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey;

(b) State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney;

(c) Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin;

(d) Ninth District Delegation

(e) Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the forgoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Barnegat at a meeting held on July 9, 2020, a quorum being present and voting in the majority.

Michele Rivers, RMC
Township Clerk

Prepared by:
DASTI & ASSOCIATES

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