

## RESOLUTION 2020 – 300

### RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY URGING JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT TO REIMBURSE RESIDENTS FOR SPOILED FOOD AND MEDICINE DURING THE POWER OUTAGE THAT BEGAN ON AUGUST 4, 2020

**WHEREAS**, Tropical Storm Isaias hit the State of New Jersey on August 4, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the storm caused widespread power outages throughout Barnegat Township and the State of New Jersey, leaving homes and businesses in the dark and without electrical power. Local utility line workers and maintenance crews worked tirelessly to help residents as quickly as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, best efforts, widespread outages continued for days, resulting in economic loss, food spoilage and the loss of refrigerated prescription medications; and

**WHEREAS**, Barnegat Township has a large senior citizen population in Ocean County, NJ, and this vulnerable population is already suffering great economic hardships due to the ongoing COVID-19 State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, senior citizens are now further burdened by having to replace spoiled food and needed medicines; and

**WHEREAS**, other utility companies, including Public Service Electric & Gas and Consolidated Edison have done the right thing and announced reimbursements to ratepayers who suffered losses; and

**WHEREAS**, JCP&L, a First Energy Company, the largest electrical utility in NJ, has not met its corporate responsibility by refusing to reimburse ratepayers for their losses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Barnegat Township Committee urges JCP&L and First Energy Corporation to implement an immediate reimbursement program for the ratepayers who lost food and medicine during the prolonged power outage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the reimbursement be done without a rate increase or financial burden to the residents of Barnegat Township; and that JCP&L and First Energy Corporation implement a resiliency plan to strengthen infrastructure to prevent this type of outage in the future.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the following: Ocean County Board of County Board of Chosen Freeholders, NJ Board of Public Utilities, Stephanie A. Brand, Director of State Division of Rate Counsel, Ocean County Legislative Districts, Ocean County Mayors.

### 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 meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

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Michele A. Rivers, RMC  
Municipal Clerk