

RESOLUTION 2020 – 321

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN STATE OF NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO CORRECT INNACURACIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION COLA

WHEREAS, Ocean County is home to the largest senior population in the state of New Jersey, with many of the 173,000 seniors living solely on Social Security receiving about \$1,500 per month to cover housing, food, medications and utilities; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration recently announced the Cost of Living Adjustment (“COLA”) for Social Security recipients was a mere 1.3 percent for 2021; and

WHEREAS, the current increase of 1.3 percent falls far short of recent cost of living increases especially as it relates to the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Christopher H. Smith, 4th District, and U.S. Representative Jeff Van Drew, 2nd District, in concert with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders has voiced their frustration over the low increase in benefits; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Smith along with Congressman Van Drew have introduced legislation in an effort to help all seniors relying on Social Security as their sole monthly income, that would provide an immediate, 2-year emergency 3 percent COLA, including 2020 and 2021, during the national COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, HR 8600, the COVID-19 Emergency Social Security Cost of Living Increase Act, is aimed at helping seniors and other Social Security recipients keep up with rising costs they experience in their daily lives, especially in health care; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Smith and Van Drew’s proposed legislation will also require the Social Security Administration to determine the annual COLA by using a senior consumer price index beginning in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the proposed measure would change the formula so that it gives appropriate weight to the types of expenses which recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) regularly face including rising medical and pharmaceutical expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barnegat Township Committee soundly supports the efforts of Congressmen Smith and Van Drew to correct the inaccuracies of the SSA COLA formula while also implementing a 2-year emergency 3 percent COLA to help protect our seniors from financial hardships and allow them to continue to live independently without fear and anxiety that comes from financial concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Committee encourages all of the Congressional leadership to support and expedite this legislation in order to protect the elderly population that is the most vulnerable and frail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution shall be made available to Congressman Chris Smith, Congressman Jeff Van Drew, Congressman Andy Kim, the 9th, 10th, 12th and 30th Legislative Districts, Freeholder Vicari, Chairman Office of Senior Services and all Ocean County municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I, Michele Rivers, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean State of New Jersey do hereby certify this resolution to be adopted by the Township Committee at their meeting held on the 5th day of November, 2020, a quorum being present and voting in the majority.

Michele A. Rivers, RMC
Municipal Clerk