

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-584

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT,
COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the "Township") has determined that it is in the public interest to establish guidelines, rules and regulations governing the conduct of Township Committee Meetings within the Township; and

WHEREAS, such rules and regulations would be designed to allow as many citizens as possible to fully and fairly speak at Township Committee Meetings to address their local elected representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat has been requested by a number of its citizens to propose time limits on individual speakers before the Township Committee during the public comment section of Township Committee Meetings so that the points of view of any interested party may be heard and considered by the Township's governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has further determined that it is in the public interest to establish guidelines for the video taping of Township Committee Meetings so as to be sure that such video taping is permitted by

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any interested persons without interfering with the Township Committee Meeting; and

WHEREAS, reasonable time limits with respect to public comment and regulations with respect to the video taping of meetings of local governing bodies had been sustained and affirmed by the Courts of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that it is in the public interest to establish such guidelines, rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this 21st day of November, 2011 by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. A five minute time limit for public comment, per person, shall be followed at all Township Committee Meetings.
2. Said limit may be relaxed, in the discretion of the member of the governing body chairing the meeting, to discuss further, issues of public importance.
3. Additional time may be permitted, by the member of the governing body chairing said meeting, after all other business of the governing body has been concluded, if the member of the governing body chairing said meetings determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following procedures shall be utilized for any person or entity wishing to video tape a meeting of the Township Committee.

1. No more than two persons shall be permitted to video tape, whether by hand held camera, camcorder or other equipment, the public portion of a Township Committee Meeting. Any person desiring to video tape the public portion of the meeting shall be considered a person counting towards the occupancy limit for fire code purposes of the venue of the meeting.
2. Any person interested in video taping the public portion of a Township Committee Meeting shall contact the Township Clerk by phone or in person to advise of his or her intention to video tape the meeting in question. Said notification must occur no later than 15 minutes prior to the official starting time of the meeting.
3. Any person video taping the public portion of a Township Committee Meeting shall video tape from or set up their video tape equipment on the side aisle at the far right of the room where the meeting is to be held. In the regular meeting room, the designated area shall be to the side aisle on the far right as a person is entering the room from the main doors and is facing the meeting room dias.

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4. For public meetings within the regular Township Meeting Room a person wishing to video tape the public portion may utilize those electrical outlets available to them, however, they should not overload the circuits provided. In addition, said person shall not utilize extension cords or devices intended to increase the number of outlets without prior approval of the Township Clerk. In the event the equipment that a person wishes to utilize to video tape the public portion of a Township Committee Meeting appears to be capable of damaging or overloading the electrical system, the Township may prohibit that person from utilizing that equipment to video tape the meeting.
5. Any person who attempts to video tape or set up equipment in a manner contrary to these guidelines, shall be asked to comply or remove the equipment in question. Any person who refuses to comply with the guidelines may be viewed as obstructing the meeting in questions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be available for all public meetings of the Township's Governing Body from the Township Clerk.

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township of Barnegat at a meeting held on November 21, 2011, a quorum being present and voting in the majority.

**SHARON L. AUER,
ACTING TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Prepared by:

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Forked River, New Jersey 08731

JJD:faw/Barnegat Resolutions 2011-GL#19466]

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