

RESOLUTION 2023-240

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING THE JANUARY 2024 TOLL HIKE BY THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (the “Authority”) which owns and operates the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway, instituted a toll increase which amounted to a 20% rate hike in September 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Authority imposed another increase in January 2022, this time amounting to a 3% hike; and

WHEREAS, the Authority thereafter imposed another increase in January 2023, again amounting to a 3% hike; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Commissioner confirmed in a Senate Budget Committee meeting in May that tolls will again go up in January 2024, though the rate of increase has not yet been specified; and

WHEREAS, the proposed hike is untimely and unconscionable, given the numerous hikes since September 2020 and the current cost of inflation, which has greatly increased the basic cost of living and led to many residents facing economic hardships; and

WHEREAS, more than 44 miles of the Garden State Parkway runs through Ocean County, representing the longest stretch of the Parkway in any New Jersey County; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the 90,000 commuters living in Ocean County use the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike daily in order to access jobs in other areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, this toll hike will greatly impact the residents of Ocean County at a time when most are already suffering a hardship due to the current economic climate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee oppose the rate hike and request that the Authority postpone its scheduled toll increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this day July 6, 2023, by the Township of Barnegat, Township Committee, Ocean County, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Governing Body here by strongly urges the Turnpike Authority to postpone its planned toll increase scheduled for January 2024: and
2. That certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Ocean County Mayors, Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scacetti, 12th and 30th District Legislatures and Governor Phil Murphy.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna M. Manno 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 of the Township of Barnegat at their regular meeting held on the 6th day of July 2023, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk