

## **RESOLUTION 2023-384**

### **RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING OCEAN COUNTY MEALS ON WHEELS ADVOCACY EFFORTS AND COMMITMENT THAT NO SENIOR GOES HUNGRY IN OCEAN COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Ocean County is home to the largest senior population in the state of New Jersey, with many of 200,000 seniors living solely on Social Security benefits averaging about \$1,700 per month; and

**WHEREAS**, our senior population was hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic fall-out which included a nearly 11% increase in monthly food costs and a 14.3% increase in monthly utility bills in 2022 resulting in a rise of nutritional and housing insecurities; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the insufficient and slight 3% increase of Social Security benefits in 2024, the senior citizens will be seeking the assistance of Meals on Wheels of Ocean County program for nutritional needs; and

**WHEREAS**, inflation and the increased cost of living have created a substantial hardship for older adults in Ocean County struggling to meet their monthly expenses who now find themselves dependent on food assistance programs like Meals on Wheels of Ocean County to meet their nutritional need; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 14% or 230,000 of New Jersey seniors face hunger and food insecurity each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels of Ocean County has been a lifeline to homebound isolated seniors in need of nutritious meals serving 1000 meal per day to our most vulnerable and food insecure residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels of Ocean County has been a long standing partner of the County working together to make sure that no senior goes hungry; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for home delivered meals has grown exponentially with more and more seniors relying on this service to meet their nutrition needs, reduce isolation and loneliness and assist them in their efforts to age in place with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, federal funds to support Ocean County Meals on Wheels have not kept pace with inflation, the rapid growth in the senior population or the growing demand for this service; and cuts would have devastating effects on Ocean County seniors who rely on this life sustaining program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Barnegat that Township Committee soundly support Ocean County Meals on Wheels advocacy efforts and encourages all of the Congressional leadership to protect and increase funding for this critical program and our commitment that no senior will go hungry in Ocean County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Congressman Chris Smith, Congressman Jeff Van Drew, Senator Menedez, and Senator Corey Booker and all of Ocean County Mayors.

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023, in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey.

---

Donna M. Manno, RMC  
Municipal Clerk