

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 10-55

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR MAKE NO REDUCTIONS IN STATE AID TO THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK DUE TO THE OVER ABUNDANCE OF CHARITABLE AND TAX EXEMPT ENTITIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Mr. DuPont offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Governor Christopher Christie has indicated that he intends to make drastic cuts in State Aid to Municipalities as a result of the State's current budgetary crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank is the Regional Center for northeastern Monmouth County, it has an inordinate number of tax-exempt properties. The Borough has 182 tax exempt parcels. These 182 parcels have an assessed valuation of greater than \$373 million dollars in 2009, 16% its total net valuation taxable.

WHEREAS, the ratable value of all charitable and tax exempt properties in the Borough for 2009 was about \$373 million dollars and is currently expected to rise to about \$374 million dollars in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the assessed value of these tax exempt properties represent about 16.6% of the Borough's taxable properties; and

WHEREAS, comparatively, the tax exempt portions for surrounding towns are: corresponding percentages of tax exempt to taxable properties in the region are as follows: Fair Haven, 4.4%; Little Silver, 5.4%; Shrewsbury Borough, 5.1%; Middletown Township, 10.02% and Shrewsbury Township, 1.8%; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is home to 53 charitable properties, including three parochial schools that serve the entire region in addition to our three public schools and over twenty houses of worship. The Borough is home to the Count Basie Theater, the Two River Theater, the Children's Cultural Center, and Phoenix Productions, which are all tax exempt theaters. The Borough is the home of the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey, the Salvation Army has recently constructed a larger facility here, and the Eastern Branch of the Community YMCA that currently has three parcels and is seeking to expand. The Borough is home to the Lunch-Break food kitchen, two halfway houses, and the Drs. James Parker Free Medical Clinic. Riverview Medical Center's five hundred bed hospital has been part of Red Bank for decades, but their ever-expanding campus has encompassed previously taxable parcels and further erodes the tax base. In fact, Riverview has acquired an additional parcel with an assessed valuation of \$2.9 million in 2008 which represents an additional loss of \$12,900 in future municipal purpose tax revenue. New Jersey Transit owns a large portion of Borough property, including the train station, several parking areas serving regional needs, as well as a large maintenance yard and storage facility; and

WHEREAS, the nature and scope of these tax-exempt properties put a tremendous demand on Borough resources with no means of generating taxes from them to support the cost of those services. The services demanded are not limited to Police manpower, but also include Public Works for garbage collection and utilities, the Health Department for marriage licenses and death certificates, as well as the fire department and rescue squad for emergency response; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes and accepts its responsibility to share in the sacrifices that will be necessary to place the State on a firm financial footing, the Borough of Red Bank is nevertheless burdened with an over abundance of charitable and tax exempt entities within its borders serving regional needs that places severe restrictions upon the Borough's revenue stream without any corresponding reduction in services that must be provided by the Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank hereby respectfully requests that Governor Christie take into account the foregoing facts and circumstances demonstrating that the Borough is carrying an excessive share of the regional burden for charitable services when considering the allocation of municipal aid in the State's 2010 Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Borough Clerk is hereby directed to forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Christie, Acting Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Grifa; Senator Beck, Assemblywoman Casagrande and Assemblyman O'Scanlon.

Seconded by Ms. Lee and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Lewis	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. Zipprich	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. DuPont	(x)	()	()	()
Ms. Horgan	(x)	()	()	()
Ms. Lee	(x)	()	()	()
Mr. Murphy	(x)	()	()	()

Dated: February 22, 2010