

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 21-213**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A STORMWATER TRUST
EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE BOROUGH'S EXISTING
AND FUTURE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES**

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey faces an extensive set of problems due to inadequate stormwater infrastructure and management, and these problems directly affect the health, safety, economic well-being, and quality of life of New Jersey residents; AND

WHEREAS, one of the major contributing factors to flooding are impervious surfaces, such as asphalt, roofs, and concrete, which prevent stormwater from filtering into the ground onsite; instead, polluted stormwater runoff flows quickly over impervious surfaces and overwhelms existing drainage infrastructure and can result in flooding; and

WHEREAS, without green space to absorb and retain stormwater, even a minor storm can pose significant threats to communities, businesses and public infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank (the "Borough"), in particular, is especially prone to pollution and flooding problems, with over 50 percent of its land area covered with impervious surfaces and having spent countless taxpayer dollars due to flooding; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change, including more frequent and stronger rainfall events, which are projected to get worse, have already unmistakably contributed to massive flooding events throughout the Borough and further overburden our stormwater systems, and as a coastal, low-lying community, are especially vulnerable to rising sea-levels and flash flooding from the nearby Navesink River and Shrewsbury River; and

WHEREAS, if a stormwater management system is not able to adequately absorb, capture, or convey stormwater, then runoff in large volume and force may cause flooding and damage to homes, businesses, and property, increase costs associated with recovery, and further strain municipal services, functions and essential public infrastructure, and wastes critical tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, green infrastructure is an effective approach to managing stormwater because it reduces and treats stormwater at its source while delivering other environmental, social, and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, stormwater infrastructure in New Jersey currently lacks a dedicated source of funding and, consequently, receives few upgrades and little maintenance once built; in some instances, going unmonitored and unattended until it breaks down; in other instances, it is simply inadequate to manage stormwater; and

WHEREAS, establishment of local stormwater trust funds present an effective management strategy to address stormwater issues; and

WHEREAS, stormwater trust funds are intended to collect fair and equitable fees from development projects to fund the development, improvement, and management of stormwater infrastructure and offer flexibility to municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, stormwater trust funds can help transform a community by addressing long-standing flooding and water pollution problems that threaten public safety and stifle growth through dedicated stormwater management projects like green infrastructure systems to combat chronic flooding events and alleviate the economic toll on our infrastructure and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the infrastructure projects funded often have many additional benefits, including neighborhood beautification, enhanced wildlife habitat, increased property values, economic revitalization, and job creation, resulting in healthier, more resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, it may be in the public interest to authorize the establishment of a local stormwater trust fund within the Borough, and to assess fees that are based on a fair and equitable approximation of the proportionate contribution of stormwater runoff from any real property, in order to finance the improvement of the Borough’s stormwater infrastructure and prioritize green infrastructure to better control water pollution and flooding, restore and enhance the quality of the State’s waters, and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of our residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK that the Borough shall establish a Stormwater Infrastructure Exploratory Committee charged with the responsibility of researching the potential of pursuing a stormwater trust fund and accompanying fee system to fund green initiative projects and gray infrastructure improvements on behalf of our residents and businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stormwater Infrastructure Exploratory Committee will report directly to the Borough Council, after the expiration of three (3) months from the effective date of this Resolution, present research that will allow the Borough Council to decide how to move forward with improvements to stormwater infrastructure and funding same.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin		X			
Councilwoman Triggiano	Second	X			
Councilman Ballard		X			
Councilman Yngstrom					X
Councilman Zipprich	Motion	X			
Councilwoman Horgan		X			

Dated: July 21, 2021

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, at a meeting held on July 21, 2021.

Pamela Borghi

Pamela Borghi, Municipal Clerk