

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION NO. 12-224

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
AND NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES OF THE NEW JERSEY PUBLIC UTILITIES,
SPECIFICALLY JERSEY CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT, AND
MAKING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS IN THAT REGARD**

Ms. Lewis offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2012, due to Hurricane Sandy, the Northeast experienced an historic and crippling loss of power leaving 4.5 million people in the Northeast and over 12,000 residents and businesses within the Borough of Red Bank without power and causing billions in damage and devastation state-wide; and

WHEREAS, many people and businesses within the Borough were without power for up to thirteen days, severely impacting many economically as well as compromising their physical and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, neither those without power nor government officials were able to consistently obtain reliable information regarding the status or timeframes for restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Borough believes that an outdated information management system and outdated utility infrastructure, i.e. where power had not been restored but was reported as though it were, which caused work tickets to close and contributed to repair delays; and

WHEREAS, the Borough believes that an outdated and ineffective asset allocation, dispatch, and response system, i.e. the adequate assignment of appropriate resources in sufficient number to effectuate necessary repairs and restore power, was not in place and resulted in portions of the Borough being restored in several days while leaving adjacent areas dark for up to two weeks, contributed to unexplainable delays; and

WHEREAS, when J.C.P. & L. did arrive in the Borough, assess the situation and familiarize themselves with what resources were necessary to effectuate repairs, these locally familiar assets were then reassigned to other areas, necessitating multiple reassessments, by multiple representatives, from multiple out of state agencies, over multiple days resulting in wasteful duplication of efforts and resources and further delay in effecting the necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, many local officials and other elected and political leaders have made public their individual but unified frustration with the above mentioned concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) should require utilities to provide authoritative, informed spokespeople to take complaints from customers and provide information in the municipal building of any municipality where more than five percent of customers are without services for more than one day; and

WHEREAS, the BPU should set and enforce stronger standards for accuracy and timeliness of the information, especially online information, the utilities provide about outages and projected restoration timelines; and

WHEREAS, the BPU should re-evaluate and improve the process by which utilities collect, manage and assign resources to effect repairs during extreme weather events, including for out of state workers; and

WHEREAS, the BPU should require utilities to issue pre-scheduled twice daily detailed status reports to officials in municipalities experiencing service interruptions, which would include an update to previously reported status of restoration as well as a schedule of intended repairs for, at a minimum, the next twelve hours; and

WHEREAS, any state utility company, including JCP&L, should be required to have a climate change preparedness plan and have its emergency preparedness and response plan approved by the State of New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank, on behalf of our residents, businesses and students, recommends that the BPU and the New Jersey Legislature conduct an investigation of how JCP&L manages information, communicates, prepares, and responds to extreme power outages, and for the New Jersey Legislature to compel JCP&L, and all public utility companies, through legislative action, to adopt the recommendations resulting from this investigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all municipalities which experience a prolonged loss of power for consideration of the passage of sister resolutions and be sent to Red Bank's County, State and Federal legislators and officials as well as the Office of the Governor, the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Jersey Central Power and Light and the New Jersey League of Municipalities..

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: November 20, 2012