

R14-156

**REAUTHORIZATION OF A COUNTY HOMELESSNESS TRUST FUND
IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.L. 2009, CHAPTER 123 ALSO KNOWN AS
N.J.S.A. 52:27D-280, ET SEQ. AND N.J.S.A. 2A:4-17**

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly enacted P.L. 2009, c. 123 also known as N.J.S.A. 52:27D-280, et seq., on or about September 8, 2009 which is known as the "County Homelessness Trust Fund Act"; and

WHEREAS, as part of that Legislation, the Legislature found that the creation of a County Homelessness Trust Fund in Counties that have completed and endorsed a plan to end homelessness will provide some of the additional funds that are necessary to move homeless or formerly homeless individuals towards the goal of permanent affordable housing and self sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Legislature recognized that despite laudable efforts by all levels of government, private individuals, non-profit organizations and charitable foundations to end homelessness, the number of homeless persons in New Jersey is unacceptably high and that the State's homeless population includes a large number of families with children, youth, veterans and elderly and even employed persons; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and social costs of homelessness are high for both public and private sectors and the Board of Chosen Freeholders has determined that the ending of homelessness should be a goal for both State and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders has created a County Homelessness Trust Fund that will help to end or curtail homelessness within Somerset County by providing some of the additional funds that are necessary to move homeless or formerly homeless individuals towards the goal of affordable permanent housing and self sufficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders that the Board hereby reauthorizes a Somerset County Homelessness Trust Fund pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 2009, Chapter 123 also known as N.J.S.A. 52:27D-280, et seq. and N.J.S.A. 22A:4-17 which funds shall be administered with the advice of the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force for the operation of a Homeless Housing Grant Program to be used only in accordance with the provisions allowed by State Statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby reauthorizes additional fees to be collected for the County Homelessness Trust Fund as authorized in N.J.S.A. 22A:4-4.1 for a surcharge of

\$3.00 upon any document for which the surcharge is authorized by N.J.S.A. 52:27D-280, et seq. and N.J.S.A. 22A:4-17, which charge shall be in addition to any other charge or charges allowed by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional fees to be charged and authorized by this Resolution shall be accounted for on or before the fifteenth day of each month on form blanks supplied by the County Treasurer and a statement of account shall clearly set forth all sums charged which have accrued or become payable during the preceding month in accordance with State Law and which funds shall be designated as the Homelessness Housing Trust Fund and which five (5%) percent of the funds may be used annually by the County for administrative costs related to administration of the fund and the Grant Program established pursuant to the State Law, all of which is authorized by Statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by passage of this Resolution and by creating the County Homelessness Trust Fund, the Board requires that the County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force report and account to the Freeholder Board on a quarterly basis concerning the status of the Fund, the use of the funds during the preceding quarter, and the benefits and progress that funds have had in meeting the purposes of the Trust Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders has agreed to the passage of this Resolution which shall be effective as of March 25, 2014 but that the effect of this Resolution and the collection of fees shall be terminated as of December 31, 2017 unless expressly reinstated or reauthorized by subsequent resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

THE MOTION, DULY SECONDED BY MR. PALMER WAS ON ROLL CALL ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

YEAS: WALSH, ZABOROWSKI, PALMER, CALIGUIRE, SCAGLIONE

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

There being no further business, upon motion made and duly seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Kathryn Quick
Deputy Clerk of the Board