13-3

Township Council
1 Municipal Plaza
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Louise M. Palagano
Municipal Clerk

http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com

Meeting: 09/25/17 06:30 PM

2017 RESOLUTION APPROVAL

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AND OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield considers transparency to be of the utmost importance and has implemented various practices consistent with that principle. In fact, many of the practices go above and beyond what is and was required by the 2012 statute. The Township installed IQM2 software which allows the public to sign up and receive automatically copies of all Conference and Regular meeting agendas, which include the actual proposed Resolutions or Ordinances considered for adoption by the Council 48 hours in advance of either meeting. The Township also placed on the Township's website a "Bloomfield Open Public Records" portal to which all signed, adopted Resolutions and Ordinances dating back to 2010 have been placed. It also provides a detailed agenda, specifically listing each topic to be discussed on an agenda for a Conference meeting and by videotaping all meetings and linking each on the Township's website to WBMA-TV. These recordings are not only available on the website, but also airs each meeting on a dedicated cable network. The Township also has a web accessible link to the entire Township Code on the Township's website for ease of use by the public, and ensures strict compliance with and adherence to the Open Public Records Act statute; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND PROCEDURE
ON BASIS OF FACTS SET FORTH

DIRECTOR OF LAW-TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

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WHEREAS, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation, a signal that the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meetings Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

WHEREAS, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who already would be stretched even further without a single dollar of additional resources provided to, or authorized to be collected by, municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey Constitution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield, that while we support governmental transparency and have implemented such measures on our own volition, we strongly urge the New Jersey Legislature to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046. Further, we support and offer our assistance to draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while providing municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and

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I do hereby certify that the funding will be legally appropriated per the above information for the purpose specified in the attached contract. Furthermore, it has been represented to me that the contracts have been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of New Jersey Local Public Contract Law and the Code of the Township of Bloomfield.
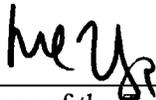
_____
Chief Financial Officer

I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield at a meeting of said Township Council held on September 25, 2017.

_____
Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bloomfield

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Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield

✓ Vote Record – Resolution			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☐ Adopt ☐ Deny ☐ Withdrawn ☐ Table ☐ Not Discussed ☐ First Reading ☐ Table with no Vote ☐ Approve ☐ Veto by Mayor ☐ Discussion ☐ Defeated ☐ Discussion No Vote		Jenny Mundell	☑	☐	☐	☐
		Nicholas Joanow	☑	☐	☐	☐
		Carlos Bernard	☐	☐	☐	☑
		Wartyna Davis	☑	☐	☐	☐
		Ted Gamble	☑	☐	☐	☐
		Carlos Pomares	☑	☐	☐	☐
		Michael J. Venezia	☑	☐	☐	☐