

Township of Morris

50 WOODLAND AVENUE
P.O. BOX 7603
CONVENT STATION, NEW JERSEY 07961-7603
FAX No. (973) 605-8363
WWW.MORRISTWP.COM

CATHLEEN AMELIO, RMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

(973) 326-7430

RESOLUTION NO. 52-09

OPPOSING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3686 WHICH PROPOSES THE TRANSFER OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township of Morris Mayor and Township Committee desires to oppose Assembly Bill No. 3686 sponsored by Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver, Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblywoman Elease Evans, which proposes the transfer of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and control of the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund to the New Jersey Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Morris Township Committee has been advised and believes that Assembly Bill No. 3686 is not in the public interest as it would dramatically diminish, if not eliminate, the role of the Municipal Alliances to Prevent Substance Abuse which is an invaluable community program and an effective asset for the development and implementation of "grass roots" local programs for the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Morris has been advised during the Human Services Assembly Hearing on January 26, 2009 that Raquel Mazon Jeffers, Director of Division of Addiction Services, indicated during her testimony that the Municipal Alliance Funding would be placed into a competitive RFP process; and

WHEREAS, this money was originally intended not to be a hindrance for volunteers to obtain; however, with a competitive RFP process this will put communities at an unfair disadvantage to compete for funding with non-profit and for profit agencies such as, the Southwest Council, Inc., as these are groups with paid employees who have more expertise in grant writing to obtain these types of grants versus volunteers who have no background in competitive grant writing; and

WHEREAS, a competitive RFP eliminates addressing community specific needs as towns within a county do not have the same problems, and often within a town there are different specific needs in the various sections of a community. Community volunteers know town- specific information and are better to identify and address the problems and issues; and

WHEREAS, the basis of the Comptroller's Audit Report was misleading and insinuated that the funding was not being used properly, but when reviewed, the funds were used according to the guidelines. The perception that the funding was spent improperly when in fact in a case by case basis it was following the procedures put into place as well as understanding prevention of substance abuse often times needs creative and alternative programs to bring the public out in numbers; and

WHEREAS, the dissolving of the volunteer based Municipal Alliance Program undermines the Governor's Plan to put out a three pronged approach as indicated in the State of New Jersey Executive Summary A Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods; and

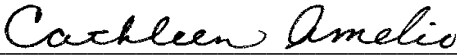
WHEREAS,The Township of Morris opposes the transfer of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and control of the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund to the New Jersey Department of Human Services as the consequences of those actions are likely to diminish or eliminate a data-driven, evidence producing drug and alcohol prevention program that already effectively uses the efforts and expertise of dedicated local volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Morris hereby opposes Assembly Bill No. 3686 and if there is an absolute need to transfer the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Department of Law and Public Safety would be a more proper fit due to the Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Strategy and framework described.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED that the Township of Morris, County of Morris through this Resolution strongly opposes and objects to Assembly Bill No. 3686 sponsored by Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver, Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblywoman Elease Evans which Bill proposes the transfer of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and control of the Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction Fund to the New Jersey Department of Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Jon S. Corzine, Senate President Richard J. Codey, Senate Minority Leader Leonard Lance, Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman, Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts, Assembly Minority Leader Alex DeCroce, Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi, Assemblywoman Denise Coyle, and all state legislators representing legislative districts with municipalities in the County of Morris.

I, Cathleen Amelio, Township Clerk of the Township of Morris, Morris County, New Jersey do hereby certify that the forgoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Governing Body at a duly authorized meeting held on March 4, 2009.



Cathleen Amelio, Township Clerk
Township of Morris, Morris County
State of New Jersey