

Mr. Nolan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

R-08-129
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A FEMA IMPOSED MORATORIUM
ON THE PROPOSED FLOOD MAPS

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands has learned of plans by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to implement new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) in the Bayshore Area, including over 1,800 homes in Highlands; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council is gravely concerned that the proposed plan has the potential to inflict a substantial financial hardship on the residents of these areas as a result of higher flood insurance rates and increased regulatory burdens for construction; and

WHEREAS, the Borough acknowledges and shares the concerns expressed by the neighboring communities of the Bayshore and welcomes the opportunity to work with the neighboring municipalities to suspend the implementation of the new maps; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of these new maps comes at a time of economic downturn, when many of the residents of the Borough of Highlands have already been forced to make difficult budgetary decisions; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Pallone has submitted specific questions addressing the concerns raised by residents of the borough of Highlands to FEMA and those questions have not yet been answered, and has called for a meeting between local legislators, the U.S., Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the impact of the new maps; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Pallone's proposed legislative moratorium would remain in place until FEMA has developed an extensive public notification plan so that all affected communities are individually briefed and affected residents have the opportunity to investigate whether their homes were placed in the flood zones appropriately; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands supports the efforts of Congressman Pallone to legislate a moratorium, demands that the questions submitted to FEMA by Congressman Pallone be answered, and welcomes a meeting involving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands that the Borough endorses the efforts of Congressman Pallone to impose a moratorium, calls on FEMA to impose a moratorium on its plans to implement the new flood maps and urges FEMA and its representatives to re-evaluate the criteria used to expand the flood zones in Highlands and the Bayshore.

Seconded by Mr. Caizza and adopted on the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Nolan, Mayor Little

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Mr. Urbanski

ABSTAIN: None

Date: June 18, 2008

NINA LIGHT FLANNERY
Borough Clerk

I, _____, Clerk/Deputy Clerk, do hereby certify this to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands on June 18, 2008.