

(c)

cc: Admin

TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER

1 Parker Road
Chester, NJ 07930
908-879-5100
908-879-8281 fax
www.chestertownship.org



June 11, 2009

Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

RE: Resolution Opposing the Governor's Proposed Diversion of the Fund
from the Emergency Medical Technical Training Fund to the General Treasury

Dear Governor Corzine:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of Resolution 2009-61 which was adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Chester at a duly convened meeting held on June 3, 2009.

Sincerely,

Mary Edwards

Mary Edwards
Deputy Clerk

cc: 24th Legislative District
Morris County Municipalities
NJ League of Municipalities

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER OPPOSING
THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED DIVERSION OF THE FUND FROM THE EMERGENCY
MEDICAL TECHNICAL TRAINING FUND TO THE GENERAL TREASURY

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") Training Fund was created by New Jersey P.L. 1992, Chapter 143 (N.J.S.A. 26:2K-54 et seq.) as a dedicated, non-lapsing, revolving fund, established to reimburse any private agency, organization or entity which is certified by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to provide training and testing for volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue squad personnel who are seeking EMT certification and/or recertification. The Fund has allowed thousands of Volunteer EMTs to earn and maintain their EMT certification without incurring out-of-pocket personal expense and without the need for funding from their volunteer squad or municipality; and

WHEREAS, the EMT Training Fund is not supported through the use of any tax money, but rather is supported by a \$0.50 surcharge on each fine, penalty and forfeiture imposed and collected by the State of New Jersey for motor vehicle or traffic violations and is currently running at approximately a \$1,000,000 deficit per year; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2009 the Department of Health and Senior Services Office of OEMS informed the New Jersey State First Aid Council of Governor Corzine's intention to redirect \$4,000,000 from the dedicated EMT Training Fund to the general treasury of the State of New Jersey leaving only a proposed \$400,000 balance in the Fund; and

WHEREAS, a \$400,000 balance in the EMT Training Fund is inadequate to meet the annual training needs of the Volunteer EMTs of this State and will result in severe cut-backs of state-paid EMT training for New Jersey's EMS Volunteer Community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chester Township formally opposes Governor Corzine's plan to transfer money from the EMT Training Fund because of the detrimental effect this will have on the availability of EMT training for New Jersey's Volunteer EMS Community.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chester Township opposes the intended re-appropriation of monies from the dedicated EMT Training Fund, which would shift the cost of Volunteer EMT Training to Chester Township, the municipality and its residents. During this time of economic hardship when squads continue to see a decrease in donations, contributions, and a short fall in fund raising it is fundamentally unfair to ask those who already volunteer their time to attend training courses and answer emergency calls to pay for their own training when they already provide so much to their community. This will significantly impact the recruitment of new members as well as retention of existing members since many will not be able to pay for their training.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey are requested not to remove any money from the EMT Training Fund and to return any money to the Fund that has already been removed for purposes other than those specified in New Jersey P.L. 1992, Chapter 143.

I HEREBY CERTIFY the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Chester at a duly convened meeting held on June 3, 2009.

Carol Isemann
Municipal Clerk

William A. Cogger
Mayor