

RESOLUTION 2019-128

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING COUNTY RESOLUTION ACR235

WHEREAS, during the 2002 general election the following public question was posed to the voters: Shall the County of Morris amend the present Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to include the purpose of preservation and acquisition of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects in accordance with P.L. 1997, Chapter 24 and allocate a sum between 1/8 and 1/4 cent of the existing tax for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, 78 percent of the voters of Morris County supported the amendment to the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to add the Historic Preservation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders created the Historic Preservation Trust Fund Review Board, appointed qualified volunteers, and adopted the Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program Rules and Regulations, which include religious institutions as eligible applicants and the preservation activities limited to the exterior, and structural and mechanical, electrical and plumbing, of historic structures associated with religious institutions as eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, when the Board of Chosen Freeholders approved the first grants, the Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program has awarded a total of \$33.9 million to eligible recipients; and

WHEREAS, county-wide Historic Preservation Trust Fund grants to sites listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places have preserved and enriched the historic environment throughout Morris County; and

WHEREAS, some of the most valued historical sites in the County of Morris are those of religious institutions and, as such, have received 30 percent of the total funds awarded; and

WHEREAS, a recent decision by the state Supreme Court has prevented the award of historic preservation funding for religious institutions in Morris County; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Anthony Bucco has introduced resolution ACR235 proposing a constitutional amendment allowing the use of public funds for the historic preservation of religious institutions as part of a historic preservation program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed constitutional amendment would allow the use of public

funds for the historic preservation of resources owned and occupied by religious institutions that are listed or eligible for listing on the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places, and is deserving of support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris and State of New Jersey, being the governing body thereof, hereby supports resolution ACR235 proposing a constitutional amendment allowing the use of public funds for the historic preservation of religious institutions as part of a historic preservation program.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington and adopted on August 6, 2019.



L. Dwyer
Acting Borough Clerk