

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-76**

**TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONTINUED EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS BEYOND PUBLIC  
HEALTH EMERGENCY AND SUPPORTING SENATE BILL NO. 1200 LIMITING THE GOVERNOR'S  
UNILATERAL EMERGENCY POWERS**

**WHEREAS**, nearly two years ago, on March 9, 2020, Governor Murphy unilaterally declared a public health emergency by executive order; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's temporary emergency powers at the outset served the purpose of managing the COVID-19 pandemic at the time when the virus was spreading rapidly, vaccines and treatments were unavailable, and our healthcare system was being overwhelmed; and

**WHEREAS**, despite these conditions subsiding through the development of vaccines, therapies and a better understanding of the science behind the virus, the Governor has unilaterally renewed this public health emergency every 30 days thereafter until June 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 4, 2021, Governor Murphy signed legislation and an Executive Order ending the public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, at that time, the Legislature granted the Governor authority to continue certain emergency powers with respect to 14 Executive Orders only until January 11, 2022, thereafter, requiring that the Governor request an extension of these powers for up to 90 days; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor made a request for a 90 day extension of these emergency powers and the Legislature refused to extend the Governor's emergency powers, but the Governor ignored the will of the Legislature and announced on January 12, 2022, that he was reinstating a statewide public health emergency, thereby allowing himself the ability to continue statewide mandates without the proper checks and balances required under State Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, to date, Governor Murphy has unilaterally issued over 200 Executive Orders relating to the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 31, 2022, Senator Declan O'Scanlon introduced Senate Bill No. 1200, which limits the duration of states of emergency and public health emergencies declared by the Governor to 60 days unless an extension is authorized by the Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Vin Gopal has joined Senator O'Scanlon as a prime sponsor of Senate Bill No. 1200, demonstrating bipartisan agreement that the Governor is abusing his emergency powers without legislative oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown believes that it is well past time to return to the regular order of government in the State of New Jersey.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey that it hereby opposes Governor Murphy's continuing unilateral declarations of a public health emergency and supports the enactment of Senate Bill No. 1200 to restore legislative oversight of the Governor's emergency powers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Township Clerk shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Office of the Governor, the members of Monmouth County's legislative delegation, the Monmouth County Board of Commissioners, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.