

# TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



## RESOLUTION NUMBER 98-14

### A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO LOCATE AND SAFELY RETURN THE YOUNG WOMEN ABDUCTED IN NIGERIA BY THE TERRORIST GROUP BOKO HARAM.

**WHEREAS**, known terrorist group Boko Haram abducted at least 276 female students, most of them between 15 and 18 years old, on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school located in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and

**WHEREAS**, Boko Haram is philosophically opposed to the education of females, and has kidnapped women and children, forced girls to serve as cooks and sex slaves, bombed churches and mosques, and assassinated politicians and religious leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, this mass abduction is one of the most extreme examples of students and schools being attacked by a terrorist group, with the threat of abduction effectively halting education in certain areas, including the northern region of Nigeria where thousands of school students have recently ceased attending school out of fear of abductions; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Resolution No. 433, introduced on May 1, 2014 by Senator Landrieu along with 27 other co-sponsors, condemns the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the United States Senate passed the resolution on May 6, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Representative Wilson sponsored, and 60 members of the United States House of Representatives co-sponsored, House Resolution No. 573, which was introduced on May 6, 2014 and condemns the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in the northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and

**WHEREAS**, advancement of women's human rights around the world is a foreign policy priority of the United States, and the enrollment, retention and completion of education for girls in Nigeria remains a major challenge; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long and unwavering history of opposing human trafficking, and the reprehensible actions of Boko Haram necessitate a reaffirmed commitment to speaking out against all kinds of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the citizens of the State of New Jersey and in the public interest of supporting the greater societal good, it is imperative to call for the immediate and safe return of the young women abducted in Nigeria, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Maplewood Township Committee

1. The Maplewood Township Committee urgently calls for the immediate and safe return of the young women abducted in Nigeria;
2. The Maplewood Township Committee recognizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination or violence, and encourages the government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect the ability of children to safely obtain an education;
3. The Maplewood Township Committee supports the offers of the United States assistance to the government of Nigeria in the search for these abducted young women;
4. Copies of the resolution shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States of America, the Secretary of State of the United States Department of State, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, every member of Congress elected from the State, the Administrator of the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, the Secretary of State of the New Jersey Department of State, the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Association of Counties.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex, and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex and State of New Jersey at regular meeting of said Committee held May 20, 2014.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and the State of New Jersey this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

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Elizabeth J. Fritzen, R.M.C., C.M.C.  
Township Clerk