

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD



RESOLUTION NO. 130-15

RESOLUTION URGING LEGISLATION FOR EXPANDING ACCESS TO NEW JERSEY DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood supports the economic health, cultural diversity, and public safety in the Township of Maplewood and the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee recognizes the fundamental importance of all of our residents' ability to participate in civic life, ensure the health and safety of their families, and to move freely across this State; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey law currently prohibits undocumented residents from obtaining a driver's license; and

WHEREAS, other states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington, and Utah, as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico do not prohibit access to driver's licenses based on immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the safety of the New Jersey's roads would be enhanced if all residents of appropriate driving age were tested, trained, licensed, and insured, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has documented that car crashes rank among the leading causes of death in the United States and that approximately one in five fatal crashes in the United States involve an unlicensed or invalidly licensed driver; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey would become safer with fewer uninsured and unlicensed drivers on the road, resulting in a predicted decrease in fatal traffic accidents and fewer hit-and-run crimes;

and

WHEREAS, the public safety would be enhanced by helping bring immigrant communities out of the shadows to participate more fully in civic life, building trust and cooperation between immigrant communities and law enforcement and strengthening the ability of police to investigate and solve crimes; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Policy Perspective (NJPP) estimates that if New Jersey law were changed to expand access to driver's licenses to undocumented residents, between 153,000 and 278,000 New Jersey residents would apply for a driver's license within the first three years of eligibility; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants pay an estimated \$476 million in state and local taxes in New Jersey each year; and

WHEREAS, NJPP estimates that New Jersey insurance companies would take in over \$200 million in additional premiums per year, saving money for existing policyholders by expanding the pool of policyholders and reducing the number of claims against uninsured drivers; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey would take in millions in new revenue from fees paid by new driver's license applicants and license renewals; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey's economy would be bolstered by strengthening the mobility of its workforce and enhancing economic participation in undocumented communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee urges the New Jersey State Legislature to pass legislation and urges the Governor to sign legislation expanding access to driver's licenses to undocumented New Jersey residents.
2. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the Offices of the Essex County Legislative Delegation and to the Office of Governor Chris Christie.

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, State of New Jersey, at a regular meeting of said Committee held on June 16, 2015.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the

Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, on this 16th day of June
2015.

ELIZABETH J. FRITZEN, R.M.C.
Township Clerk