

WHEREAS, the current fiscal crisis has spurred elected officials to seek ways to balance budgets with minimal negative effect on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature in Senate Bill 7 and Assembly Bill 3688 is considering deferral of certain pension payment obligations on the part of local government; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned deferral of pension payments is, in reality, not local property tax relief but local property tax deferral, as the reductions in payments for the years 2009, 2010, and 2011 will be made up by higher payments in subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has already determined to reduce planned extraordinary aid allocations to fiscal year communities for FY 2009 by the amount of the proposed reduction of tax bills in that year; and

WHEREAS, reductions in municipal aid would make a mockery of the supposed aim of providing property tax relief via reduced pension payments; and

WHEREAS, it is highly unlikely that, after a reduction in municipal aid in 2009, municipalities will see a rise in municipal aid from the state in subsequent years to help fund rising pension costs as full payment are phased back in, creating further financial hardship to municipalities and additional upward pressure on local property taxes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Ringwood, that the Governor and Legislature of the State of New Jersey are urged not to reduce municipal aid; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if, despite this appeal, municipal aid for 2009 is reduced, the Governor and Legislature are requested to increase municipal aid in the following three years to offset the rising pension payments so that the aim of tax relief promised through the pension payment deferral becomes a reality; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jon Corzine, Senator Kevin O'Toole, Assemblyman David Russo, Assemblyman Scott Rumana, the Clerk of the New Jersey Senate, the Clerk of the New Jersey Assembly, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Conference of Mayors and the Clerks of all Passaic County municipalities.

WALTER J. DAVISON, MAYOR

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Municipal Council of the Borough of Ringwood at the Business Meeting of April 16, 2009.

KELLEY A. ROHDE, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Davison			X			
Anderson		X	X			
Conley			X			
Marsala	X		X			
Schaefer			X			
Speer			X			
Taukus			X			

