

70

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. _____
PROPOSED BY: COMMISSIONERS GILL & LUCIANO
SUBJECT:

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(q)
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 2-29 (B)

COMMENDATION

HONORING PAUL O'SULLIVAN
HONOREE OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS IN AMERICA
MICHAEL L. DELAHUNTY DIVISION 9 OF MONTCLAIR

WHEREAS, Paul O'Sullivan will be honored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America (A.O.H.), Michael L. Delahunty Division 9 of Montclair, on the occasion of the organization's 123rd Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner and Dance to be held on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, born at Saint Michael's Hospital in Newark in September 1964, Paul O'Sullivan's parents couldn't decide on a name until a nun who worked at the hospital suggested her own name Sister Paul. He was baptized at Saint Cecilia Church in Kearny, New Jersey, five days later. His parents were the late Michael O'Sullivan, a Shannon fisherman from Limerick City, a gifted singer and musician and Mary McManus from Belfast. Mike and Mary met at a dance at the Kearny Irish American Club in 1959 and were married the following year. They raised him, Brenda and Michael Jr., in Kearny; and

WHEREAS, growing up in Kearny in the 60s and 70s was like living in an Irish colony. Most of the adults Paul O'Sullivan was in contact with as a child were from Ireland. It was this early exposure to Irish culture, music and songs from his father and Irish food and stories from his mother that inspired him to seek out the same as he grew up. Trips to Ireland were a common occurrence for the O'Sullivans and still are, having gone across the "Pond" many times as kids and as adults with kids. He attended St. Cecilia's grammar and High School until 10th grade and graduated from Kearny High School in 1982; and

WHEREAS, after high school Paul O'Sullivan became a carpenter in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners union. He is currently a stationary engineer with Local 68 Operating Engineers. In 1982, inspired by friends who already played, he started to learn the bagpipes. He progressed on the instrument aided by the constant Irish music played at his home. "You have to get the tunes in your head in order to play them," his instructors would say; and

WHEREAS, Paul O'Sullivan joined the Shillelagh Pipe Band later that year and played tenor drum while he brought his piping ability up to performance level. It was March 1984 after marching in the West Orange Parade that he met Colleen Kostibos at the Shillelagh Club. They started dating and married in 1989 at St. John's Church in Orange, New Jersey, where Colleen's parents and grandparents were all married. They have lived in West Orange since 1995 and all four of their children play musical instruments, Féthnat plays fiddle, Conall and Tiarnan drums and Seamus fiddle and drums. Colleen is an assistant luthier and repairs violins and other string instruments; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Paul O'Sullivan began competing in solo and band piping competitions and started winning prizes at Irish féiseanna and Scottish Highland games from Virginia to Canada. It was during this time he developed a deeper understanding of the dedication any instrument needs to be played competently. He also plays the banjo, uilleann pipes, Scottish small pipes, bodhran, whistle and button accordion all at different skill levels, but the highland pipes are his main instrument. He has also competed in singing competitions at the Mid Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil and a variety of Irish féiseanna; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Paul O'Sullivan and some of his close piping and drumming friends decided to form a new pipe band and with overwhelming positive response from the pipe band community, they started the South Park and District Pipes and Drums of Essex County New Jersey. Twenty years and the band is still going strong led by the core group that started it with Bill McEvoy as Pipe Major while he is the Pipe Sergeant and competition lead. Passing on the Irish tradition through music, song and stories is what he tries to do every day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of County Commissioners hereby congratulates and commends Paul O'Sullivan for being honored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Michael L. Delahunty Division 9 of Montclair; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Paul O'Sullivan.

Michael J. Polanski

Approved as to form and legality _____

Commissioner Counsel

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Abstention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Commissioner _____

Second by Commissioner _____

Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Commissioner	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
COOPER					MERCADO				
GILL					POMARES, V.P.				
GRAHAM					SEBOLD				
JOHNSON									
LUCLANO					RICHARDSON, PRES.				

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was () adopted () defeated () tabled by roll call vote at a _____ meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on _____

Is Publication Required () Yes () No

Date Published _____

Wayne L. Richardson, President