

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF ESSEX

90

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

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41a-38(g)
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 2-11 (C)

SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF LOCAL CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS TO REVIEW POLICE OPERATIONS AND CONDUCT

WHEREAS, each House of the New Jersey Legislature has introduced bills during the 2022-23 Session authorizing the creation of local civilian review boards to review police operations and conduct; and

WHEREAS, the bills would establish municipal civilian review boards to review and investigate complaints against members of municipal police forces, and would further allow a county to establish a county civilian review board that shall have jurisdiction over only county-run police departments or its sheriffs' departments; and

WHEREAS, these boards would be designed to "foster transparency, fairness and equality in policing practices and policies, which in turn will help promote positive relations between police and the local communities they serve." and

WHEREAS, the bills state "Civilian review boards are oversight mechanisms whereby victims of police misconduct may raise complaints and seek redress, and civilian review boards consist of civilians, rather than sworn police officers, as a means to provide an external check mechanism to police department internal affairs units" and;

WHEREAS, the bills would limit the board's reviews to complaints about excessive police force and other types of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Board would be allowed to review police Internal Affairs files and subpoena witnesses and documents. The board would issue reports and recommendations to the mayor or police chief, to which law enforcement officials would be required to provide a written response; and

WHEREAS, incidents, such as the recent fatal police shooting of Najee Seabrooks in Paterson, have frustrated social justice activists who have seen their efforts stall in the New Jersey Legislature for more than two years; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S2295 and its companion bill in the General Assembly, A1515, have been introduced in their respective houses, and the bills' sponsors are asking to have the civilian review bills put forward in both the Senate and Assembly. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of County Commissioners supports the passage of S2295 and A1515 and urges the Senate President and Assembly Speaker to move forward on the proposed legislation creating local civilian review boards; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be provided to Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, and members of the Essex County State Legislative Delegation.

Approved as to form and legality

Michael J. Polunski
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									
LUCIANO					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