



**TOWNSHIP OF DOWNE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bart, E.	X			
Byrne, S.				X
Jordan, L.	X			
Rothman, M.	X			
Campbell, R.	X			

Resolution Number: R-52-2017
Dated: April 10, 2017
Offered By: ROTHMAN
Seconded By: JORDAN

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF STIPULATION
OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND
AND VERIZON OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, the County of Cumberland, in its own right and on behalf of communities in Cumberland County, along with seventeen (17) communities on their own behalf have initiated a petition before the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) seeking relief with respect to the alleged failure and neglect of Verizon of New Jersey (VNJ) to maintain its copper landline telephone infrastructure which alleged failure and neglect has resulted in an alleged compromise of telephone service to residents of these communities; and

WHEREAS, the service and maintenance issues, with respect to copper landline telephone service by VNJ has allegedly caused safety problems for residents having medical monitoring, home security alarms, available telephone service during times of emergency or need and has otherwise compromised effective landline telephone service to these customers among other things; and

WHEREAS, the BPU, after reviewing the petition and conducting a public hearing on August 4, 2016, ordered that a public hearing be held for which a hearing officer from the BPU has been appointed; and

WHEREAS, VNJ and Rate Counsel of the State of New Jersey, counsel for the County and the petitioning communities, as well as representatives from the legislative office of State Senator Dr. Jeff Van Drew, have negotiated with respect to the alleged

deficiencies with respect to landline maintenance, and in addition to other service issues or problems, and have drafted a Stipulation of Settlement, a copy of which is attached hereto and made part hereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Cumberland and the Downe Township Committee has reviewed the Stipulation and deems the provisions thereof to be in the interest of the residents of Downe Township; and

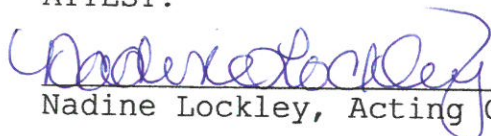
WHEREAS, the relief, among other things, provides measurable performance standards, accountability and the continuing ability of the petitioners to enforce service and maintenance obligations and to seek additional relief as may be requested before the BPU such that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Cumberland and the Township of Downe believe that the execution of this agreement is in the interest of the residents of Downe Township.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe as follow:

1. That a proposed Stipulation of Settlement, between the County of Cumberland on its own behalf and on behalf of the communities within Cumberland County and Verizon of New Jersey is hereby approved.
2. That the Director and Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders are hereby authorized to execute same in the form on file with the Board of Chosen Freeholders.
3. That a copy of this Resolution shall be provided to all interested parties, including, but not limited to, the BPU, the Rate Counsel for the State of New Jersey and the office of State Senator Dr. Jeff Van Drew.

THIS RESOLUTION was adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Downe on April 10, 2017.

ATTEST:


Nadine Lockley, Acting Clerk


Robert Campbell, Mayor

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

The undersigned, Acting Clerk of the Township of Downe, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Downe Township Committee at a regular meeting held April 10, 2017.

Date

Nadine Lockley, Acting Clerk