

**TOWNSHIP OF WEST BRADFORD
RESOLUTION 97-04**

**TO OPPOSE THE GOVERNORS PROPOSAL TO CHARGE
CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES FOR STATE POLICE SERVICES
THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS WITHOUT CHARGE**

WHEREAS, the Governor, in proposing the 1997-98 Commonwealth budget has proposed a charge for state police services; and

WHEREAS, only certain municipalities will be affected by the Governors proposal to render a per resident charge for state police coverage; and

WHEREAS, that charge will be an unfunded mandate from the Commonwealth to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Governor made a campaign pledge that he would not impose unfunded mandates upon the municipalities of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Governors proposal is discriminatory in that it will cause only those Commonwealth citizens that live in communities of 5000 or more in population to pay a surcharge for state police services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has committed to the cost assessment for certain population limits for his 1997-98 budget, we believe that it is his intent to increase the fees and reduce the population limits in future budget submissions; and

WHEREAS, there is not a state law that requires any municipality to provide a local police force; and

WHEREAS, the Governors concept that the citizens in municipalities without their own police force receive a greater benefit from the Commonwealth and that all other Commonwealth programs provide an equal benefit to all citizens, is flawed; and

WHEREAS, the former Department of Community Affairs and its successor, the Department of Community and Economic Development, have promoted the consolidation and regionalization of police departments. The Pennsylvania State Police Force epitomizes the type of police organization that is being espoused; and

WHEREAS, the affected municipalities will attempt to create, purchase or otherwise form police forces that; are less costly than the Commonwealth proposal, would provide local ordinance enforcement, and be subject to local controls, before paying the Commonwealth for a service that is available without special charges to other citizens; and

WHEREAS, that creation of additional police forces will in fact cause a regression in the way that police services are provided; and

WHEREAS, the creation of additional police forces will create an increase in activity in the court and penal systems, thus increasing costs to all taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, this unfunded mandate will cause the municipality to increase the taxation of its citizens. If those new taxes are beyond the taxing limits of the municipality, other services will have to be curtailed or discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania State Police provide a myriad of special services to many cities, boroughs and townships that have their own police force, without a charge for those services; and

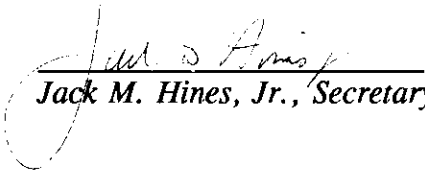
WHEREAS, the provision of training and consulting for local municipalities to establish and deal with police departments is not as readily available, at this time, as it was with the former Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, any increase in taxes at the local level will involve the use of real estate taxes. Those real estate taxes will create an additional burden on businesses and industries. These are the same businesses that the Governor has pledged to work with to relieve their tax burden and to make Pennsylvania more attractive for business and industry.

NOW THEREFORE, be it and it is hereby resolved that West Bradford Township opposes the Governors proposal to charge certain municipalities for a service that is available without charge to all other citizens of the Commonwealth. That this charge for police services is discriminatory to our citizens. That there is not a statute that requires any municipality to provide police services. That this action, as proposed in the Governors budget, is arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of power.

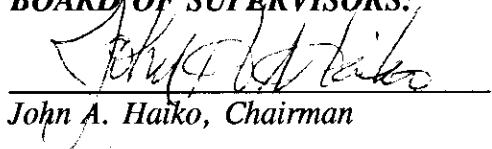
RESOLVED THIS 25th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1997.

ATTEST:



Jack M. Hines, Jr., Secretary

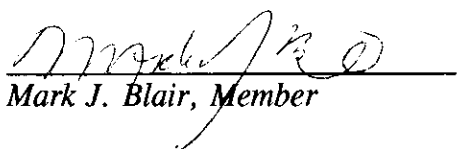
**TOWNSHIP OF WEST BRADFORD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**



John A. Haiko, Chairman



Kenneth E. Klunk, Vice Chairman



Mark J. Blair, Member