

RESOLUTION
of the
BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE
Resolution No. 2011-239

Council Meeting Date: 09-12-2011

Date Adopted: 09-12-2011

TITLE RESOLUTION COMMENDING MUNICIPAL RESPONSE TO
HURRICANE IRENE AND WELCOMING AN INVESTIGATION INTO
THAT OF CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES

Councilperson Lesnewich submitted the following resolution, which was duly seconded by Councilperson Galluccio.

WHEREAS, in preparing for, dealing with, responding to and recovering from the devastation brought to our State by the winds and rains of Hurricane Irene, New Jersey municipal officials and local police, fire, rescue and EMS personnel – both paid and volunteers - once again ably demonstrated their selfless commitment to their hometowns, their neighbors and their duty; and

WHEREAS, by that commitment, and by their cooperation with adjoining municipalities, with county coordinators, and with Federal and State emergency management agencies, local officials and first responders confirmed the need for a government close to the people and immediately available to them in their need; and

WHEREAS, when the needs of their fellow citizens called for a response beyond the power of local officials, immediate contact was made with responsible parties and the reaction of those concerned closely monitored by New Jersey Mayors and municipal governing body members; and

WHEREAS, the lengthy wait of thousands of their fellow citizens for the restoration of essential utility services, such as electric, has angered and frustrated local officials, leading to calls for an explanation; and

WHEREAS, in response to those calls, Board of Public Utilities President Lee Solomon has added his voice to theirs and he has, further, pledged that the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will investigate and review thoroughly the conduct of all utilities, and their parent companies during this crisis; and

WHEREAS, President Solomon has stated that if the review, which will include public hearings, indicates that adequate preparations were not made in advance of the storm, or adequate resources not dedicated to deal with its aftermath, then the BPU will hold the utilities accountable; and

WHEREAS, we sincerely welcome those assurances and thank President Solomon for them;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Borough of New Providence does join in commending our courageous first responders and our fellow local officials, throughout the State, for their selfless commitment and tireless service before, during and after New Jersey endured the impact of Hurricane Irene; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, likewise, commend State and Federal emergency management professionals and those at the county level who report to them, as we commend BPU President Solomon for his leadership in holding accountable those parties responsible for delivering vital utility services to our fellow citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we compliment and acknowledge the excellent efforts by Governor Christie and his administration, for their extraordinary efforts in dealing with this emergency and for their helpfulness and hands-on approach in working with our State and Local Officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, to Governor Christie and to our State Senator and to those who represent us in the General Assembly.

APPROVED, this 12th day of September, 2011.

RECORD OF VOTE

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	NOT VOTING
CUCCO	X			
GALLUCCIO	X			
GENNARO			X	
LESNEWICH	X			
MUÑOZ	X			
VYZAS	X			
HERN			TO BREAK COUNCIL TIE VOTE	

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Borough Council held on the 12th day of September, 2011

Wendi B. Barry, Borough Clerk