

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING CALL OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.**

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Blades, who moved its adoption.

Upon the passage of a motion to consider from the floor, and the same appearing proper and necessary.

WHEREAS, on October 17, 2009, Chairwoman Cathy Moses, directed the Clerk of the Essex County Board of Supervisors to call a Special Meeting of the Essex County Board of Supervisors to be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Essex County Board of Supervisors have waived the service of notice of such meeting in writing signed by them;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby ratifies the call of said Special Meeting to be held on Monday, October 19, 2009 pursuant to Section 152 of the County Law and waives the service of notice of the time, place and purpose of the Special Meeting pursuant to the individual signed waivers.

This resolution was seconded by Supervisor Merrihew and Supervisor Scozzafava, and adopted upon a roll-call vote as follows:

AYES: 2843 votes
NOES: 0 votes
ABSENT: 0 votes

RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF VERMONT TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY RELATIVE TO THE CLOSURE OF THE CROWN POINT BRIDGE AND IMPLORING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND THE STATE OF VERMONT TO TAKE ALL IMMEDIATE AND NECESSARY MEASURES TO REOPEN THE CROWN POINT BRIDGE OR TO PROVIDE A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR TRAVEL BETWEEN NEW YORK STATE AND VERMONT; TO APPROPRIATE AND ALLOCATE EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR THESE PURPOSES AND TO AID RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK STATE, ESSEX COUNTY AND VERMONT WHO WILL SUFFER EXTREME HARDSHIP BECAUSE OF THE BRIDGE CLOSURE

The following resolution was offered by Supervisors Scozzafava, Dedrick and French, who moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, the Crown Point Bridge which spans between Crown Point, New York, and Chimney Point, Vermont was closed by emergency order on Friday, October 16, 2009, as a result of a State Department of Transportation Inspection which revealed significant structural deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Crown Point Bridge is a vital and critical link between New York State and Vermont for residents of the State of New York, Essex County and Vermont who rely upon the bridge as their only means of transportation for economic, business, medical and emergency needs; and

WHEREAS, the Crown Point Bridge is used by approximately four thousand drivers each day, the majority of which use the bridge as their only means of access to medical and surgical procedures at specialty clinics and hospitals; for daily employment, ambulance and emergency services; and the trucking of farm goods and other business commodities to and from Vermont; and

WHEREAS, with the closure of the Crown Point Bridge, many residents of New York State, Essex County and Vermont will have no other economically viable alternative to crossing into Vermont and New York for work, business and commerce and will greatly suffer economically and financially by virtue of having to daily pay costs associated with travel, which in many cases will take an additional two hours and increase costs to farmers and businessmen who produce or grow their products in New York/Vermont and transport them to Vermont/New York for distribution; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the residents of New York State and Essex County who need specialized and acute medical and surgical treatment and procedures use the Crown Point Bridge as their only economic and timely means of access to the hospitals and

special medical providers located only in the State of Vermont and, without this vital link, not only will the costs of obtaining this treatment increase tremendously but the inability to quickly obtain these services could well result in unneeded pain, suffering, delayed care or worse; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the Crown Point Bridge will also result in the inability of ambulance and emergency service personnel being able to timely and quickly transport severely injured individuals from New York to the medical centers and facilities capable of treating and saving lives in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, because the Crown Point Bridge is such a vital connection between the sparsely populated areas of southern Essex County which do not have state of the art medical facilities or transportation infrastructure for the delivery and distribution of business and agricultural products, it is imperative that the Crown Point Bridge be reopened or that alternative means are provided that allow for the same or similar ability to cross the lake in a timely and economic manner; and

WHEREAS, as many residents of Essex County have lower incomes, it would be an extreme hardship for the residents to pay for the additional fees associated with the cost of travel, including additional gas fees and the costs of paying for ferry fees which would be extremely expensive on a daily basis and would cause drastic economic hardships for many residents and businesses in New York State and Essex County.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby strongly urges and implores the Federal Government, the Governor of the State of New York and the Governor of Vermont to declare a State of Emergency with respect to the closure of the Crown Point Bridge and to immediately take any and all measures necessary to repair the Crown point Bridge so that this vital economic, medical and emergency link between New York State and Vermont will be reopened; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that the Crown Point Bridge is unable to be reopened, the Essex County Board of Supervisors urges and implores the Federal Government, the Governor of the State of New York and the New York Legislature, and the Governor of Vermont and its Legislature to provide an alternative means of crossing between southern Essex County and Vermont to avoid the drastic economic hardship and loss and the possible injury and loss of life which may result by the inability to obtain emergency medical services and acute care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Supervisors hereby strongly urges and implores the Federal Government, the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to provide emergency funding to residents of Essex County and the State of New York who's only means of access for purposes of work, business and medical treatment is the Crown Point Bridge and to appropriate the necessary funds to aid these residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be immediately forwarded to United States Senators Charles E. Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand,

Congressman Scott Murphy, Governor David Paterson, Governor James Douglas, New York Senate Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward and Assemblywoman Janet Duprey.

This resolution was unanimously seconded and adopted.