

RESOLUTION 2012 -224

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN,
COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER'S
APPLICATION FOR A NEW CARDIAC SURGERY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Ocean County, New Jersey is the 6th largest county in the State of New Jersey, and has the highest population of citizens over the age of 65.

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of death for those over the age of 65 and more Ocean County residents die from heart disease than any other county in New Jersey.

WHEREAS, Ocean County does not have a hospital that provides cardiac surgery although there are 18 approved facilities in New Jersey including 14 in Northern New Jersey and at least one in 11 other counties.

WHEREAS, the distribution of cardiac surgery programs in New Jersey leaves the highest concentration of citizens most vulnerable to cardiovascular disease underserved and without comparable access as other senior populations throughout the State.

WHEREAS, the length of travel for Ocean County residents to receive the services associated with cardiac surgery not only has negative clinical impacts but puts undue financial stress on County residents with fixed incomes and who rank #1 in households receiving social security and other retirement income.

WHEREAS, Ocean County residents are not only denied access to cardiac surgery within the County, they are denied a series of other cardiac procedures that should be easily accessible to the populations most in need.

WHEREAS, Community Medical Center in Toms River, provides the greatest access to the underserved senior population in Ocean County, including three of the top 5 senior populations in New Jersey in Berkeley, Manchester and Toms River and is centrally located between other cardiac surgery facilities.

WHEREAS, Community Medical Center, currently performs an array of cardiac services and the performance of these services indicates a unique capability to successfully provide cardiac surgery to Ocean County residents.

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has not accounted for the senior population in Ocean County who are most vulnerable to cardiovascular disease and in need of the full array of cardiac services when issuing a certificate of need for Cardiac Surgery in the past.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the membership of the Township of Ocean in the, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby call upon the State of New Jersey to allow Community Medical Center in Toms River the ability to perform cardiac surgery in order to provide suitable access that currently does not exist for Ocean County residents most in need of this lifesaving procedure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be provided by the Secretary of the Ocean County Mayors' Association to each of the following:

- a. The Honorable Chris Christie, Governor of the State of New Jersey
- b. The Honorable United States Congressmen Jon Runyan and Christopher H. Smith
- c. The Honorable United States Senators Robert Menendez and Frank R. Lautenberg
- d. The Honorable State Senators Christopher J. Connors, James W. Holzapfel and Robert W. Singer
- e. The Honorable State Assembly Members DiAnne C. Gove, Brian E. Rumpf, David W. Wolfe, Sean T. Kean and David P. Rible
- f. The Honorable Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
- g. All Ocean County Mayors
- h. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities
- i. The New Jersey Conference of Mayors
- j. Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services
- k. Community Medical Center

CERTIFICATION

I, Diane B. Ambrosio, Clerk of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 14th day of June 2012.

Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC
Township Clerk