

Mayor Nolan offered the following Resolution and moved on its adoption:

R-12-71

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CLOSE THE JAMES J.
HOWARD MARINE SCIENCE LABORATORY AT SANDY HOOK, NJ**

WHEREAS, the James Howard Sciences Laboratory at Sandy Hook, known at Marine Labs, has been in operation since 1961; and

WHEREAS, Marine Labs was the first federal scientific laboratory in the United States devoted to researching marine recreational species, and now has an international reputation in the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, Marine Labs has been instrumental in successful efforts over the past several decades to clean up the ocean waters in a critical region extending from Long Island south to Cape May, including New York Bight and coastal Monmouth County; and

WHEREAS, the current federal administration proposes to close Marine Labs and reassign its staff to other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration facilities located in other states; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands recognizes that Marine Labs is important to the intellectual, economic and oceanic health and well-being of the region, and believes that the proposed closure is detrimental and unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highlands further recognizes that Marine Labs is important to the education of the region's students, including those from Highlands and others attending the Marine Academy of Science and Technology, a premier Monmouth County high school whose campus neighbors marine labs and benefits from the facility and its scientist's expertise; and

WHEREAS, Marine Labs was recently rebuilt following a devastating fire, and subsequently improved at great expense to include multiple state of the art laboratories and a massive salt-water aquarium.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highlands respectfully urges the current administration to reconsider the proposed closure, saving it from the fate suffered by Fort Monmouth felt throughout the region, and to instead preserve the reverend institution for the benefit of generations to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to the United States Senators Robert Menendez and Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Rush Holt, Frank Pallone and Christopher Smith.

Seconded by Ms. Kane and adopted on the following roll call vote;

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mr. Redmond, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Francy, Ms. Kane, Mayor Nolan

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE: March 21, 2012

Carolyn Cummins, Borough Clerk

I hereby certify this to be a true copy of Resolution R-12-71 adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Highlands on March 21, 2012.

Borough Clerk/Deputy Clerk