

# Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

City Clerk File No. Res. 08-865

Agenda No. 10.7.5

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE:



## RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY OPPOSING THE SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2008 (SFRA)

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Legislature passed the SFRA in January 2008 by the slimmest of margins; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey constitution mandates that schoolchildren receive a “thorough and efficient” education; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Supreme Court in the landmark *Abbott v. Burke* case determined that many of the State’s urban schoolchildren, including those residing in Jersey City, require parity funding, supplemental programs, preschool and other remedies to ensure a constitutionally- mandated education; and

**WHEREAS**, the SFRA eliminates the historic “Abbott” designation for urban school districts, including Jersey City, even though these districts serve an overwhelming number of disadvantaged students and children with special needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Department of Education and the New Jersey City Legislature have not shown that the Abbott remedies are no longer needed or ineffective, or that urban districts, such as Jersey City, no longer meet the criteria set forth by the New Jersey Supreme Court for Abbott designation; and

**WHEREAS**, the SFRA will dramatically reduce the level of school funding for Jersey City and other Abbott districts, resulting in significant cuts in needed and effective programs, services and staff in Jersey City schools over the next several years; and

**WHEREAS**, under the SFRA, the Jersey City Public Schools can expect a budget shortfall of \$25 million for the 2009-10 school year and \$43 million for the 2010-11 school year, depending on the size of property tax increases levied on local residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the quality of the education provided to school children in Jersey City and other Abbott districts will be severely and negatively diminished if the Abbott remedies are ended, or if the SFRA is not rescinded or amended by the Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jersey City recognizes that the future quality of life in Jersey City depends on educating the City’s children to become active citizens and productive members of our future workforce and economy; and



Continuation of Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY  
OPPOSING THE SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2008 (SFRA)**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Jersey City resolves to take every step possible to support our schoolchildren and our public schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City opposes the SFRA and urges the New Jersey Legislature to take prompt and immediate action to reinstate the Abbott designation and the Abbott remedies and to revise the SFRA so that it ensures schoolchildren in Jersey City and other Abbott districts their right to a thorough and efficient education under the New Jersey Constitution.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

APPROVED: B. O'Reilly  
Business Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Counsel

Certification Required   
Not Required

**APPROVED**

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE											
11/12/08											
COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.
SOTTOLANO				GAUGHAN				BRENNAN			
SPINELLO				FULOP				FLOOD			
LIPSKI				RICHARDSON				VEGA, PRES.			

✓ Indicates Vote

N.V.-Not Voting (Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City N.J.