

TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN REVISING PROVISIONS CONCERNING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPANDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE

WHEREAS, the Township of Moorestown has established limits on the amounts of political contributions that regulated “professional business entities” can make and in order to compete for and/or to remain eligible to compete for the award of professional service contracts by the Township of Moorestown, and

WHEREAS, the Township’s efforts at regulating the influence of political contributions at the municipal level are vigorous, yet they remain only a small part of a statewide regulatory system concerning political contributions at the State and local levels, much of which is viewed as conflicting and confusing, and which overall was viewed most recently by the Governor and by legislative leaders as cumbersome, difficult, and of questionable effectiveness, and

WHEREAS, the Governor and State legislative leaders have introduced and debated a number of proposals in recent years, not yet enacted, which attempt to reform the current system of regulating the limits on the amounts of political contributions by government vendors, in a manner that is more consistent and uniform at all levels of government in New Jersey, so that both government entities that award public contracts, and the vendors that compete for them, can operate in a more transparent and straightforward environment; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Moorestown endorses those efforts at regulatory reform, and in that regard wishes to revise the existing municipal limits on political contributions by professional business entities, and to require the disclosure by such contributors of the amounts of all such contributions, regardless of their dollar amount and whether any such contributions are below the regulatory limits on those contributions, in anticipation of the adoption of a comprehensive system of campaign finance reform, and in so doing to make the Township’s limits on such political contributions more consistent with similar limits in place at the State level and in other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Moorestown deems it appropriate and advisable to take action on the issue without further delay, in order to remain consistent with expected regulatory reforms and in some respects to encourage their swift adoption by other levels of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP POLICY:

The Township of Moorestown reaffirms the policy of the Township to set maximum dollar amounts that professional business entities may contribute politically, beyond which they become ineligible to receive a public professional service contract from the Township of Moorestown, as well as the Township’s policy to prohibit professional business entities which are performing or being paid under existing contracts with the Township from making political contributions in amounts that exceed the Township’s limits on political contributions by professionals.

SECTION 2. PROHIBITION ON AWARDING PUBLIC CONTRACTS TO CERTAIN CONTRIBUTORS:

The requirements of Chapter 10-1 (c) of the Township Code are hereby deleted and revised as follows:

C. Contribution Limits.

Any entity meeting the definition of a “professional business entity” under this Section may annually contribute a maximum of \$2600.00 each for any purpose to any candidate for Council, or \$7200.00 to the Township of Moorestown party committees, or \$7200.00 to a PAC referenced in this Code.

SECTION 3. DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS:

Chapter 10-3 of the Township Code is hereby revised as follows:

A. Prior to awarding any contract or agreement to procure professional services, or banking or insurance coverage services or any other consulting services, with any professional business entity, the Township or any of its purchasing agents or agencies, as the case may be, shall receive a sworn statement from the professional business entity made under penalty of perjury that the bidder or offeror has not made a contribution in violation of Section 10-1 of this article, and shall further set forth the total dollar amount of all such contributions made pursuant to this Chapter, regardless of dollar amount.

SECTION 4. FILING OF ORDINANCE WITH SECRETARY OF STATE:

This Ordinance shall be filed by the Township Clerk with the Secretary of State in compliance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-51(c).

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS CLAUSE:

If any sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any persons or circumstances shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, or if by legislative action any sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall

lose its force and effect, such judgment or action shall not affect, impair or void the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. CODIFICATION:

This terms of this Ordinance shall be incorporated into Chapter 10 of the Township Code and shall be enforced in addition to provisions contained therein.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE:

This ordinance shall become effective twenty calendar days from the second reading of the ordinance and adoption by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that Ordinance No. 16-2013 was introduced and adopted on first reading by the Township Council at a meeting held on August 5, 2013. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey at a meeting of the Township Council held on August 19, 2013.

<u>VOTE:</u>	
JORDAN	YES
CHIACCHIO	YES
GARWOOD	YES
NEWCOMER	NO
NAPOLITANO	YES

Patricia L. Hunt, RMC
Township Clerk