

**Board of Chosen Freeholders  
County of Bergen**

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**Tomas J. Padilla**  
*Freeholder Chairman*

**Elizabeth Calabrese**  
*Freeholder Vice Chairwoman*

**James M. Carroll**  
**David L. Ganz**  
**Bernadette P. McPherson**  
**Julie O'Brien**  
**Vernon C. Walton**

**Valerie Coniglio**  
*Clerk to the Board*

**Edward J. Florio**  
*Counsel to the Board*

**February 21, 2008**

**The Honorable Jon. S Corzine**  
**New Jersey Governor**  
**P.O. Box 001**  
**Trenton , NJ 08625**

**Dear Governor:**

We are enclosing certified copy of resolution # 213 adopted by the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders at it's meeting held on February20 , 2008, support the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission.

Very truly yours  
  
Valerie Coniglio  
Clerk to the Board

VC/dg  
Enc.

c: New Jersey Congressional Delegation  
Members of the New Jersey Legislature  
New Jersey Historical Commission  
Bergen County Cultural & Historic Affairs Divison ✓



2008

# BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS RESOLUTION

| MEMBERS              | AYE | NAY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| CALABRESE            | ✓   |     |         |        |
| CARROLL              | ✓   |     |         |        |
| GANZ                 | ✓   |     |         |        |
| McPHERSON            | ✓   |     |         |        |
| O'BRIEN              | ✓   |     |         |        |
| WALTON               | ✓   |     |         |        |
| PADILLA,<br>CHAIRMAN | ✓   |     |         |        |
| TOTALS               | 7   | -   | -       | -      |

Resolution No. 213  
 Date: 02/20/2008  
 Page 1 of 2  
 Subject: New Bridge Landing  
 Purpose: Support  
 Account No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contract No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dollar Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prepared By: LMZ

Offered by: O'BRIEN  
 Seconded by: McPHERSON  
 Approved by: [Signature]

Certified as a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders on above date at a Regular Meeting by: [Signature]

Valerie Coniglio, Clerk, Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bergen County, New Jersey

WHEREAS, the County of Bergen has a rich heritage, including numerous associations with the American Revolution, which has not been adequately recognized heretofore; and

WHEREAS, Historic New Bridge Landing, is the site of the *Bridge That Saved A Nation*, where General Washington and the American garrison of Fort Lee crossed the Hackensack River in the face of the British invasion of November 20, 1776, as immortalized in Thomas Paine's *American Crisis*; and

WHEREAS, a regiment of British soldiers were killed and or wounded, during a battle with a body of Bergen Militia in the Zabriskie-Steuben House on May 30, 1780; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne led American troops on a raid against the Bull's Ferry Blockhouse on July 20, 1780; and

WHEREAS, General Washington made his headquarters in the Zabriskie-Steuben House during the encampment of the Continental Army at Steenrapie, River Edge on September 4-20, 1780; and

**WHEREAS**, New Bridge was strategically located at the narrows of the Hackensack River and set in a no-man's land between the two opposing armies, it served as a fort, military headquarters, intelligence-gathering post, encampment ground and battleground throughout the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans fought and died upon this ground, leaving future generations with a sacred trust for its stewardship in their honor and memory; and

**WHEREAS**, John Zabriskie and Lt. Colonel Abraham Van Buskirk, of the Third New Jersey Volunteers, were prominent Loyalists whose homes at New Bridge were confiscated by the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Jersey presented the use and income of the confiscated estate of Jan Zabriskie at New Bridge, to Major-General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, Inspector-General of the Continental troops, on December 23, 1783, in recognition of his "many and signal services to the United States of America"; and

**WHEREAS**, General Steuben "thoroughly rebuilt" the Zabriskie-Steuben House before selling the premises in 1788, making it the only extant dwelling owned by him in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic New Bridge Landing is home to the Bergen County Historical Society, which possesses important museum and library collections preserving the prehistory and history of Bergen County; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection and public enjoyment of this site and its museum collections, which tell the story of Bergen County and teach the invaluable lessons of history, provide a significant but underutilized educational resource; and

**WHEREAS**, this world heritage site not only builds pride of place and a sense of community but also provides the economic benefits of heritage tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders aware of and recognizing the importance of this historic American Revolutionary site, support the goals of the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission in locating a permanent museum to secure and display the priceless collection of the Bergen County Historical Society; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders support the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission in its plans and actions to preserve, promote and steward these significant landmarks and relics of our past in a way to commensurate with their international historical significance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** a copy of this resolution shall be sent to New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, the Members of the New Jersey Legislature, the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the Bergen County Cultural and Historic Affairs Division.