

# RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

## MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

No. R-122-14

Date of Adoption: August 18, 2014

**Title or Subject:** RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RELEASE OF UNITED STATES MARINE SGT. ANDREW TAHMOORESSI FROM MEXICAN CUSTODY

**WHEREAS**, 25-year-old United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and received a meritorious battle promotion to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Afghanistan's Helmand Province with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment; and

**WHEREAS**, following his service to our nation with the United States Marine Corps in Afghanistan, Sgt. Tahmooressi was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi moved to San Diego, California, to receive treatment for PTSD from the United States Veterans Affairs Medical Center in San Diego in La Jolla, California, and while driving on March 31, 2014 he mistakenly crossed the border into Mexico after taking a wrong turn; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi placed a call to 911 to report his error and informed the 911 dispatcher that he had three legally registered guns in his possession because he kept everything he owned in his Ford F150 truck; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi was arrested at the United States-Mexican border on March 31, 2014, and charged with weapons trafficking, and he is still being held in the El Hongo II prison in Tecate, Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi alleges that abuse during the beginning of his incarceration and poor prison conditions led him to attempt suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, PTSD can result in hyper-vigilance, memory and cognition lapses, and depression, and Sgt. Tahmooressi's reported actions of aggression and physical self-abuse are likely manifestations of his PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, Sgt. Tahmooressi's immediate release would allow him to enroll in medical treatment at a clinic specializing in combat-related PTSD in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, County of Morris in the State of New Jersey is outraged that a United States Marine Corps veteran who has served two tours of duty in Afghanistan remains wrongfully imprisoned in Mexico.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, County of Morris in the State of New Jersey as follows:

1. That the Washington Township Committee strongly urges the President of the United States to utilize the full powers and authorities of his office to immediately secure the release of United States Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi from Mexican custody to the United States so Sgt. Tahmooressi can receive appropriate medical assistance for his medical condition.
2. That the Washington Township Committee calls for a delegation of Congressional and State Department representatives, the Red Cross and American medical professionals to meet with Sgt. Tahmooressi while the details of his immediate release are being negotiated to assess his physical and emotional well-being.
3. That if Sgt. Tahmooressi's immediate release does not occur, the United States impose economic sanctions, including travel restrictions, against the Mexican government.
4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable President of the United States, Barack H. Obama, to Secretary of State John Kerry, to the Speaker of the House, John Boehner, to the United States Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid, to the United States Senate Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell, to the Mexican Consulate in Washington, D.C., to all our Federal Representatives, to the Honorable Governor of the State of New Jersey, Christopher J. Christie, to the President of the New Jersey Senate Stephen M. Sweeney, to the Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly Vincent Prieto, to all our local State Representatives, to the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and to all Municipalities in Morris County, urging them to adopt and distribute similar resolutions.

**ATTEST:**

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth W. Short, Mayor

I, Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Township Committee held on August 18, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina DiGregorio, Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR RESOLUTION TO RELEASE SGT. TAHMOORESSI**

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