

State of New Jersey



THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senator SINGLETON, Assemblyman CONAWAY and Assemblywoman MURPHY

WHEREAS, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey are pleased to acknowledge Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development, highly esteemed in the Garden State, upon the felicitous occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary, which will be marked and observed during a Celebration Gala on October 4, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development, or MEND, has been a beacon for affordable housing since 1969, one year before this State's Supreme Court handed down the landmark ruling requiring all municipalities to provide affordable housing to low- and moderate-income residents; and,

WHEREAS, Established by nine Moorestown churches represented by Boyce M. Adams, C. Dixon Heyer, Clarence L. Baylor, G.S. Spohn, Warren D. Sawyer, the Reverend Fred D. Tennie Jr., Steward R. Maines, and the now-retired Honorable Harold B. Wells III, whose participation was prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, MEND has earned a sterling reputation for developing more than 1,000 units across thirty locations throughout Burlington, Gloucester, and Atlantic Counties while simultaneously preserving a number of historical buildings by repurposing them into residential complexes, a praiseworthy initiative that has been in place since the organization's inception fifty years ago; and,

WHEREAS, Among its many remarkable accomplishments, MEND has garnered a measure of acclaim for saving the former Lenola Elementary School, the Mitchell School in Burlington Township, the building that once housed Moorestown Fire Department Hose Company No. 1, and the one hundred-year-old Marcella Duffy School in Florence and, in their place, creating affordable housing that not only sustains families but also maintains diversity in communities; and,

WHEREAS, Under the brilliant leadership of President and CEO Matthew Reilly, MEND has furthered its scope and renown by forming an alliance with for-profit developer Conifer Realty, a partnership that has allowed MEND to develop large-scale projects, including its newest, a fifty-four-unit affordable housing complex for seniors at the former site of the Cinnaminson Home in Burlington County; and,

WHEREAS, An array of accolades, including eight regional and national awards for excellence, bears witness to MEND's numerous achievements and attests to the high regard in which it is held; and,

WHEREAS, The strength and success of the State of New Jersey, the vitality of our communities, and the effectiveness of our American society depend, in great measure, upon exceptional organizations, exemplified by MEND, whose industrious members unite voluntarily, act together, and provide their unique talents to further a cause, to perform a necessary service, to support one another and their fellow citizens, or to relieve others from unavoidable hardship; and,

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and right for the members of this Legislature to pause in their deliberations to recognize MEND and to commend all those whose considerable efforts have contributed to five decades of outstanding service to the people of the Garden State; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That this Legislature hereby congratulates MEND upon its Fiftieth Anniversary, pays tribute to its meritorious record of service, leadership, and commitment, and extends sincere best wishes for its continued success and vigor in all the years to come; and,

Be It Further Resolved, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to MEND.

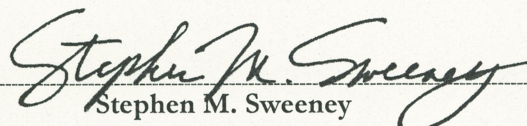
Attest:

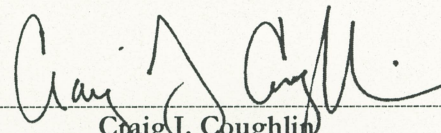


Linda Metzger
Secretary of the Senate



Dana M. Burley
Clerk of the General Assembly


Stephen M. Sweeney
President of the Senate


Craig J. Coughlin
Speaker of the General Assembly