

RESOLUTION 2023-88

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CONGRESSMAN CHRIS SMITH'S ATTEMPTS TO
ACQUIRE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE BELMAR HOUSING AUTHORITY
BUILDING ON 710 8TH AVE FOR REPAIRS AND RENOVATION**

WHEREAS, the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Belmar, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, has 50 senior and disabled residents living in the Belmar Housing Authority building located on 710 8th Ave; and

WHEREAS, the Belmar Housing Authority Building is in dire need of repair and renovation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby support Congressman Chris Smith's attempts to get federal funding for these renovations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council are grateful for these efforts to provide improved safety and quality of life for these residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Belmar, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, strongly support Congressman Chris Smith's attempts to acquire funding for the Belmar Housing Authority building and urge the Federal Government to consider providing funding to better the quality of life of our senior and disabled residents.

Mayor Buccafusco offered the above resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilwoman Kinney and adopted by the following vote on roll call:

Council Members:	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mayor Buccafusco	X			
Councilwoman Rondinaro	X			
Councilman Levis	X			
Councilwoman Kinney	X			
Councilman Brennan	X			

I, APRIL CLAUDIO, CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, Monmouth County, and the State of New Jersey do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Original Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Governing Body at its meeting of March 28, 2023.


APRIL CLAUDIO, RMC/CMC
MUNICIPAL CLERK



NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICE

30TH DISTRICT

ROBERT W. SINGER

SENATOR

SenSinger@njleg.org

The Honorable Rep. Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
112 Village Center Drive
Freehold, NJ 07728

SEAN T. KEAN

ASSEMBLYMAN

AsmSKean@njleg.org

EDWARD H. THOMSON

ASSEMBLYMAN

AsmThomson@njleg.org

Dear Congressman Smith:

We hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the constituents of Belmar, we would like to formally vocalize our support for additional funding granted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for purposes of the Belmar Housing Authority renovation project.

The Belmar Housing Authority oversees a 50-unit senior building that provides safe and affordable housing to many individuals in our community. The building has deteriorated since its construction in the 1960s to a point where it is hazardous to the safety of both the residents and pedestrians walking at street level. As such, this project necessarily addresses risks to injury by falling debris while also providing long-overdue updates to vital building appliances such as the elevator and hot water heater.

We believe this project is imperative for the continued efforts of the Belmar Housing Authority to provide safe and affordable housing to the many seniors in our community who rely on its services. Furthermore, this project critically focuses on the public safety of residents and the public alike. For these reasons, we support the goals of this project and request that the Department of Housing and Urban Development strongly consider providing additional funding for the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us about this matter. Senator Singer's office can be reached at (732) 987-5669. Assemblymen Kean and Thomson can be reached at (732) 974-0400.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Singer
Senator, 30th District

Sean T. Kean
Assemblyman, 30th District

Edward H. Thomson
Assemblyman, 30th District

OCEAN COUNTY OFFICE
1771 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 202
LAKEWOOD, NJ 08701
PHONE: 732-987-5669
FAX: 732-901-0587

MONMOUTH COUNTY OFFICE
1967 HIGHWAY 34, BUILDING C, SUITE 202
WALL, NJ 07719
PHONE: 732-974-0400
FAX: 732-974-2564

Mayor Gerald Buccafusco
Council President Thomas Brennan
Councilwoman Jodi Kinney
Councilwoman Maria Rondinaro
Councilman Mark Levis



Borough of Belmar
601 Main Street
Belmar, NJ 07719
Phone: 732-681-3700
Fax: 732-681-3434
www.belmar.com

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Congressman Chris Smith
US House of Representatives
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of myself and the Belmar Borough Council, please accept this letter as our formal letter of support and request for funding necessary renovation projects of the Belmar Housing Authority (BHA) located at 710 8th Avenue.

The BHA runs a 50-unit apartment building that was erected in 1966 to provide subsidized affordable housing to seniors and individuals with disabilities. There are currently 50 residents.

We are grateful to you and your office for working with BHA on past renovation issues and for advocating for HUD emergency funding regarding the deteriorating façade of the building. The Belmar Housing Authority was recently awarded \$99,927 from HUD's Capital Funding and we appreciate your help in making this happen. The BHA can now pay for scaffolding to prevent loose bricks from falling onto residents and guests who are near the building.

Other parts of the building are in dire need of repair. Renovation is needed both on the façade of the building and on the interior. Water from heavy rains gets trapped behind the façade and leaks onto interior walls and into rental units. Another emergent matter is the need to modernize the elevator, which has been having issues since August 2022 when it shorted out after a power outage. This elevator is past its life expectancy and needs to be brought up to code. We were informed by the BHA that the total amount of repair work requested is \$676,000.

Accordingly, the Borough Council and I support the Belmar Housing Authority in its request to be considered for your Community Project Funding.

We appreciate any help you can provide to the BHA in order to keep our senior residents safe in their apartments and around this aging building. Our Belmar residents deserve to live in a safe environment. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mayor Gerald A Buccafusco

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
115 INLET TERRACE
BELMAR, NJ 07719
(732) 681-1300
CIRCLEOFFRIENDS@GMAIL.COM**

Dear Congressman Chris Smith,

On behalf of Circle of Friends, we would like to write our support for the emergent and necessary renovation project at the Belmar Housing Authority (BHA) building located at 710 8th Ave, you are considering for your Community Project Funding.

The Circle of Friends is a non-profit corporation organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes helping young adults with special needs. The Circle of Friends was created by Carol and Bob Cupoli of Belmar over twenty years ago, as they struggled to find a social network of peers for their adult son, David, who has Down Syndrome. Since then, the Circle of Friends has been organizing newsletters, community social events, dinners, dances, sporting events, day outings and activities for adults with developmental and learning disabilities.

The Belmar Housing Authority provides subsidized affordable housing to seniors and individuals with disabilities, and their safety is very important to the Belmar residents and the disabled community that Circle of Friends represents.

We understand that the Belmar Housing Authority is requesting \$676,000 for funding to renovate the deteriorated façade, modernize the elevator up to code, and other emergent issues. Although a hefty bill, this funding will improve the well-being of residents who are among our most vulnerable, and protect a structure that has helped prevent homelessness for the past 70 years and more to come.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Doherty
President, Circle of Friends



The Honorable Congressman Chris Smith
US House of Representatives
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

Dear Congressman Smith,

As the President of the Belmar Women's Club, I would like to send our support for a funding project you are being presented by the Belmar Housing Authority. The Woman's Club of Belmar is 501(c) (3) local volunteer service organization. It is comprised of multi-generational working and retired women offering their time for charitable work while meeting new friends and having fun.

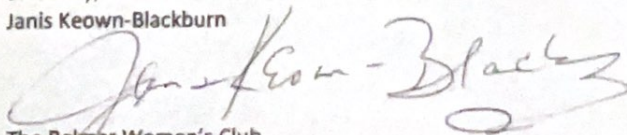
Our club's purpose is to enhance the quality of life within our community and transform public interests and concerns into meaningful projects and programs.

The residents in the Belmar Housing Authority building are very dear to us and the issues of deterioration of the building have been heartbreaking to see. Our Women's club strives to bring our community, especially women, together and reach out to each other, and the safety concerns for our residents in that building are many.

We would be so grateful, if you are able to continue to advocate for this funding for your community project funding.

Many of the residents in this building have been born and raised in Belmar and nearby areas and have contributed to many of the successes and legacies of this incredible borough. Keeping this building intact for them and the hundreds before and after them will be a source of pride for our entire district and state.

Sincerely,
Janis Keown-Blackburn



The Belmar Women's Club



The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore

The Honorable Congressman Chris Smith
US House of Representatives
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

Dear Congressman Smith,

As the President of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore (FSOS), I would like to formally express our support for your continued attempts for funding for necessary renovations at the Belmar Housing Authority apartment building located at 710 8th Ave. The FSOS is a non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political organization. It is social organization dedicated to the purpose of promoting and enhancing good fellowship, Irish heritage, and fraternity of its members. Since our start in 1964, the FSOS has supported local communities and people needing assistance.

The safety concerns of the deteriorated brick facade, water damage, continued elevator issues pose an urgent safety concern for these low-income seniors and disabled Belmar residents.

We are hoping you are able to continue to advocate for this funding for your community project funding.

Sincerely,

Craig Coyle
President, Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Jersey Shore

The Order of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore

815 16th Ave -- PO Box 148 Belmar, NJ 07719



The Honorable Congressman Chris Smith
US House of Representatives
33 Washington Street
PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754-0728

Dear Congressman Smith,

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Sincerely,
Janis Keown-Blackburn

The Belmar Women's Club