



NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES

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GREGORY P. MCGUCKIN
ASSEMBLYMAN

JOHN CATALANO
ASSEMBLYMAN

March 25, 2023

Congressman Christopher Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization (Public Bath House Reconstruction) and Community Project Funding Request

Dear Congressman Smith:

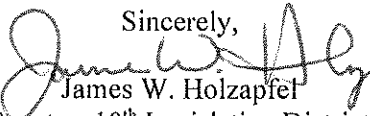
We would like to express our support of the Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization and Public Bath House Reconstruction Project. Community Project Funding will be instrumental in enhancing economic development in an area still recovering from Superstorm Sandy and the South End Boardwalk Fire. We believe this will encourage residents and tourists to visit the township, showcasing the unique character of the coastal community.


The surge in tourism during the 2020-2022 summer season created a significant demand for more public facilities such as restrooms, showers, and changing rooms. Existing facilities are severely insufficient to service the large summer crowds that visit Seaside Heights and require immediate improvements before the 2023 summer season begins.


In the best interest of the township, residents, and tourists, we respectfully request that the township be awarded the Community Project Funding in the amount of \$2 million in order to construct an approximate 50'x 55' building with a second floor viewing deck. Fully funding the project through this grant will reduce the burden on Seaside Heights taxpayers and keep beach badge fees affordable for all residents and visitors.

Revitalization projects such as this maintain the beauty of our area and boost the local economy. I respectfully request strong consideration for the Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization and Public Bathhouse Reconstruction to further improve the community for years to come.

Sincerely,


James W. Holzappel
Senator, 10th Legislative District


Gregory P. McGuckin
Assemblyman, 10th Legislative District


John A. Catalano
Assemblyman, 10th Legislative District

JWH/GPM/JAC/kh



MICHAEL J. FIURE
County Administrator

TRISTIN J. COLLINS
Assistant County Administrator

OFFICE OF THE
OCEAN COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

P.O. BOX 2191 * 101 HOOPER AVENUE * ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY 08754-2191

Telephone
(732) 929-2147

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754

RE: Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization (Public Bath House Reconstruction)

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners to encourage your support for the Borough of Seaside Heights' Community Project Funding Request. As you know, tourism in Ocean County generates approximately \$6 billion annually and the Seaside Heights' boardwalk and beach comprise one of the County's most essential vacation destinations.

The Hiering Avenue Bath House, as it was known pre-Sandy, provided daily visitors and vacationers public restrooms, hot showers, changing rooms, and lockers. It was the only full-service facility serving the boardwalk and beach, and it supplemented two small restrooms facilities. The destruction of the bath house when Superstorm Sandy made landfall was a great loss for visitors and vacationers.

In the absence of federal funding it is very unlikely that Seaside Heights will be able to move forward on the project any time soon. The Borough is still reeling from the financial hardship brought on by Sandy and the subsequent South End Boardwalk Fire.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions or require additional support please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Fiure

Ocean County Administrator



SPECIAL ASSISTANCE/ACCOMMODATIONS available, please call (732) 929-2147.





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Dr. Anthony E. Vaz

Borough of Seaside Heights
George E. Tompkins Municipal Complex. Bldg. B
100 Grant Avenue
Seaside Heights, NJ 08751
Phone: 732-793-9100 Fax: 732-793-0908

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Community Project Funding Request
Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization (Public Bath House Reconstruction)

Dear Congressman Smith:

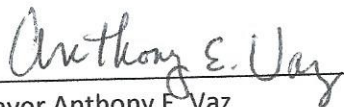
The Seaside Heights Borough Council respectfully requests your support for the Borough's Community Project Funding Request.

As you know, Seaside Heights was devastated by Superstorm Sandy and a subsequent boardwalk fire in 2013 that investigators linked to Sandy. The Sandy damage included the Hering Avenue Bath House then located on the north end of the boardwalk. The facility provided public restrooms, showers, lockers, and changing rooms for adults and children. Unfortunately, neither FEMA nor insurance provided recourse and the lot remained vacant for over ten years while the Borough awaited a decision from NJDEP concerning the future use of the property. With good news now in hand from NJDEP the Borough Council is ready to rebuild the bath house once we have a funding source.

Although the long-term outlook for Seaside Heights is very positive, we continue to face post-Sandy financial adversity and depend on substantial annual budget assistance through the State of New Jersey's Transitional Aid for Localities Program. In the absence of Community Project Funding the reality is that Borough Council will likely have to defer the project or consider raising property taxes and/or beach fees to fund the project.

Thank you for considering our request. If you would like to discuss the Borough's need for the project in more detail, please call me anytime.

Very truly yours,



Mayor Anthony E. Vaz

c: Borough Council
Borough Administrator



Property Owners Association of Seaside Heights

PO BOX 548 Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

March 27, 2023

Congressman Christopher Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Congressman Smith,

We are writing you today regarding the Seaside Heights Revitalization and Community Project Funding request for the "Public Bath House Reconstruction". Our organization is the Property Owners Association of Seaside Heights, and as property owners one of our top priorities is to support & help revitalize our town in any way we can. With that said, we feel this initiative is one of great importance and truly a need in town. The tourism volume has increased tremendously since Covid. Visitors have found our little "gem of a town" by the sea, and the need for more public facilities is in demand now more than ever.

This project will once again provide our guests with bathrooms, showers, lockers, etc. and a viewing deck which can accommodate disabled persons. These facilities were truly missed when they were taken away during Super Storm Sandy. At such time, the burden fell on the Business Owners, on the north end of the Boardwalk, having to allow visitors to use their bathrooms. These facilities on our Boardwalk will help maintain its integrity and be a positive experience for families to visit for years to come. We are still continuing to make every effort to improve Seaside Heights since Sandy in 2012, and the fire that destroyed the south end of the boardwalk shortly thereafter. This will be another step in the right direction.

Please find this request from the Property Owners Association of Seaside Heights in support of awarding the township the full funding to make these improvements in town. As property owners and taxpayers, not only will we see the accommodations as a welcoming addition, but we also appreciate the relief of not having our taxes increase to help pay for such efforts.

Sincerely,

Frank Santora

President

Property Owners Association of Seaside Heights

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Seaside Heights Boardwalk Revitalization (Public Bath House Reconstruction)

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing you today on behalf of the Seaside Heights Business Improvement District in support of Seaside Heights' Community Project Funding Request. Our organization is the public voice of virtually all businesses located in Seaside Heights. To be sure, the businesses in Seaside Heights depend on tourism to survive, to thrive, and to help the town emerge even stronger after the devastation of Superstorm Sandy. Having proper facilities for our patrons is of the utmost importance. Without a proper bath house for families, we risk them leaving after a day at the beach, instead of rinsing, changing, and extending their visit and patronizing local businesses.

Without the aid of federal funding, it is doubtful that Seaside Heights officials will be able to rebuild the bath house, directly impacting all of the businesses in town. Without being able to offer clean and sufficient numbers of restrooms, showers, and changing rooms we risk a drop in the number of people that choose Seaside Heights for a day on the beach and visit our restaurants, arcades, and other attractions. The Borough's inability to provide these facilities makes it much more difficult for families – especially working class families that comprise our primary visitor demographic - to spend time here because they do not have a means to shower, change, and comfortably enjoy themselves. Bringing people to town is the goal of the Seaside Heights Business Improvement District; keeping them here to enjoy more of what our local businesses have to offer is how we know we have done a good job.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and I hope you can find a way to help us in our endeavors to rebuild. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,



Adam Tormollan
Executive Director – Seaside Heights Business Improvement District

adam@exit82.com
732-830-3700