

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
R-181-24**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION
EFFORTS AND GOALS AS INDICATED IN THE 2025 MUNICIPAL “PIG” COMPLIANCE
STATEMENT**

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, the State Agriculture Development Committee (“SADC”) required the development of a Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan in order for interested municipalities to qualify for local farmland preservation funding through the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (“PIG”) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin undertook the task to develop a Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan (“the Plan”), with said Plan receiving final approval by the SADC in 2010, and a subsequent update of the Plan receiving approval by the SADC in 2022; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Municipal PIG Program, the Township of Franklin was required to submit a Municipal PIG application to the SADC, along with the submission of an annual compliance statement confirming that the Township was, and is, meeting its municipal farmland preservation goals; and

WHEREAS, the SADC has indicated that all annual compliance statements must be accompanied by a resolution from the municipal governing body indicating that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts goals as indicated in the Plan and compliance statement: and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on November 11, 2024, the Franklin Township Agriculture Advisory Committee discussed the annual compliance statement to be submitted by December 15, 2024, and specifically noted the following recent accomplishments:

- (a) In November 2023 the Township of Franklin, in cooperation with the SADC and Gloucester County, preserved the Andrew and Thomas Bellone farm and the Catherine and Martin LaRose farm through its Municipal PIG Program. The farms are 50.2-acres and 18-acres in size, respectively.
- (b) The Township of Franklin, in cooperation with the SADC and Gloucester County, is in the final stages of preserving the Zachary and Kristina Martorana farm through its Municipal PIG Program. The farm is 135-acres in size. Settlement is expected in the Spring of 2025.
- (c) The Township of Franklin is assisting the SADC in the preservation of the Albert Pustizzi farm, totaling 55 acres in Franklin Township with an additional 19 acres in Newfield. The property is being preserved through the SADC’s Direct Easement Program.
- (d) The Township of Franklin is in the process of implementing a new outreach effort to 35 farms that are contiguous with previously preserved farmland properties. It is expected that this effort will result in a number of new applications for the Township Farmland Preservation Program in 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts and goals as indicated in the updated Franklin Township Farmland Preservation Plan and the Municipal PIG Program.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation and the State Agriculture Development Committee as required.

Adopted: November 26, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBER	MOTION	2 nd	YES	ABSTAIN	NO	ABSENT
J. Bruno						
T. Doyle						
M. Fiorella						
J. Keen						
M. Marsh						

Attest:

Township of Franklin

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk

John Bruno, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Freijomil, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on November 26, 2024.

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk