

**TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-166

WHEREAS, Cranford Township Ordinance No. 2005-48 governs the removal, replacement and compensation for trees affected by development projects that are reviewed by the Planning Board and Zoning Board; and

WHEREAS, the Township has no means of addressing the loss of trees resulting from the action of property owners such as removal of hazard trees, diseased or dead trees or for reasons of personal preference; and

WHEREAS, tree removal that is not subject to the existing development review process it is difficult to qualify the loss and the resulting lack of replacement trees likely results in an overall loss of trees within the Township despite an active tree planting program; and

WHEREAS, trees are considered one of Cranford's most important natural resources and provide numerous amenities including improved air quality, improved water quality, added aesthetic value; and

WHEREAS, protection of trees is in the Township's best interests and adoption of a policy that addresses tree loss and attempts to compensate for the loss of trees by property owner actions is a measure to help ensure tree conservation; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Township is to pursue preservation of trees and to maintain the appearance of a wooded suburban community; and

WHEREAS, such a goal may be achieved without the burden of permits, fees or approvals for residents removing trees on their property; and

WHEREAS, the policy recognizes the rights of residents to remove at will any tree on their property;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Cranford adopt a policy of no net loss of trees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that residents are encouraged to voluntarily contact the Township's Shade Tree Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receiving such notification the Township may replace the tree either on the property suffering the loss or elsewhere in the Township.

Certified to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford at a meeting held April 28, 2009.

Dated:

Heather Capone, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk