

FILE OF THE CITY CLERK

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 8-2015

INTRODUCED – FEBRUARY 24

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 24

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER
OPPOSING SENATE BILL 4 AND HOUSE BILL 173 AS LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO
LOWER THE STANDARD THAT DEFINES PURELY PUBLIC CHARITIES, SEIZE
POWER FROM AN IMPARTIAL JUDICIARY, UNDERMINE THE FINANCES OF
MUNICIPALITIES AND FURTHER BURDEN THE TAXPAYING PUBLIC.**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 173 seek to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to make the state Legislature the sole authority to determine what is a purely public charity; and,

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 173 would prove to be harmful to Lancaster and municipalities across the Commonwealth; and,

WHEREAS, the five-part standard upheld by the state Supreme Court sets a fair, exacting but reasonable measure for organizations to receive charitable, and, therefore tax-exempt status; and,

WHEREAS, the court standard ensures charities demonstrate a benefit for the local community; and,

WHEREAS, the lowered standard proposed in Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 173 is ripe for political favoritism, casting the state Legislature and the Commonwealth in a negative light; and,

WHEREAS, additional charitable, and therefore tax-exempt, organizations and properties in Lancaster will be detrimental to the financial health of Lancaster and the state's already struggling municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, taxpayers of Lancaster and other municipalities provide fire and police protection and other services to all properties, although tax-exempt property owners are not required to pay for these services; and,

WHEREAS, taxpaying citizens will be further burdened as they are required to pay the costs of additional tax-exempt organizations; and,

WHEREAS, there has been little public discussion and few legislative hearings on the implications of this important public issue; and,

WHEREAS, a higher level of scrutiny is needed to define which nonprofit organizations deserve tax-exempt status, not a lesser one.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Lancaster urges all Representatives and Senators of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to oppose Senate Bill 4 and House Bill 173; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be circulated to members of Lancaster County's legislative delegation.

John E. Graupera, City Council President

J.Richard Gray, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk