



**Resolution #2024-79**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE NO. 725 CONCERNING UNLAWFUL OCCUPANCY OF DWELLINGS AND SUPPLEMENTING TITLE 2C OF THE NEW JERSEY STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the occupancy of a dwelling without the permission of the property owner, also known as "squatting" is an increasing occurrence throughout the State of New Jersey and the Country; and

**WHEREAS**, persons engaging in squatting often do so with the express intention of depriving the lawful property owners of the use and possession of their own property for as long as possible, with the express knowledge that squatting is not a criminal offense, thus requiring a property owner to undertake expensive, time-consuming civil litigation to recover their property, which said litigation can be subject to delay tactics including, but not limited to, bankruptcy applications, resulting in squatters successfully depriving lawful owners of the use and benefit of their own property for extended periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, Senators Steinhardt, Testa and Polistina have introduced and are sponsoring Senate No. 725, which said legislation would establish squatting in various contexts as criminal offenses and crimes of the fourth degree, thus permitting property owners to avail themselves of filing criminal complaints with local law enforcement that can be duly investigated, and, when appropriate, permit police officers to arrest and remove persons found to be engaged in said criminal squatting activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Manville hereby adopts this Resolution to memorialize its support for Senate No. 725 and certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Borough Clerk to the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Borough's elected Representatives in the State Legislature, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Bray, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk

*Richard M. Onderko*  
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Richard M. Onderko  
Mayor

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Manville, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey at a Regular Meeting held at 325 N. Main St., Manville, NJ 08835 on April 22, 2024.

ATTEST:

William Bray,  
RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk

Introduced	Seconded	Council Members	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
	X	Councilman Agans	X			
		Councilwoman Camacho	X			
X		Councilman DeVito	X			
		Councilwoman Madak				X
		Councilwoman Puia	X			
		Councilman Skirkanish	X			
		Mayor Onderko				