



Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
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Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon Freeholders Set Process For Private Donations To Economic Development Program

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board took action Tuesday evening that begins the process of moving the cost of economic development operations to a public private partnership that includes business community financial support, by establishing a policy for private contributions to an economic development fund.

Freeholder Director Matt Holt stated, “The implementation of the County’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS, required the establishment of an operation to direct, oversee and drive forward an overarching strategy to enhance the economy of Hunterdon County.

Initially that operation has required County financial support, however, the longer range goal has always been to have the Economic Development program become a public private partnership with significant private funding.”

Toward the achievement of that goal, the Freeholders approved a policy for the administration of the dedication by rider for economic development that sets strict guidelines and limits to ensure ethical conduct and the avoidance of conflict of interest in the program.

Freeholder Holt added, “This action creates the opportunity for and encourages private investment in the Economic Development operation. There are business community interests that understand the need for coordination and leadership in implementing the CEDS and are willing to contribute financially towards its success.

Any contributions received can be put to use now in support of economic development programming, thereby lessening County budget expenditures.”

The policy includes the following limits and guidelines:

Individual private contributions cannot exceed \$1000 annually

The motive and benefits of a donation must not be in conflict with the goals and mission of the County.



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No contribution will be accepted where an interest is seeking to encourage any County decision making.

All donations will be transparent. The County reserves the right to refuse any donation determined to be not in the County's interest.

Contributions from an entity holding a contract with the County is prohibited, unless the contract has been awarded by public bid or under competitive contracting, as established by state law.

Freeholder Director Holt concluded, "The establishment of this policy is a significant step on the road to moving Economic Development operations from exclusively County funded to a public private partnership format that has been proven to be effective in other Counties.