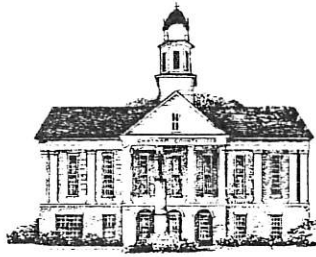


COUNTY OF CHATHAM



COMMISSIONERS

GARY PHILLIPS
Chairman

MARGARET BRYANT POLLARD
Vice Chair

BOB ATWATER
RICK GIVENS
CARL OUTZ

CHARLIE HORNE
County Manager

ROBERT L. GUNN
County Attorney

Phone (919) 542-8200
Fax (919) 542-8272

P. O. BOX 87
PITTSBORO, N. C. 27312-0087

ORGANIZED 1770

707 SQUARE MILES

A Resolution Requesting Governor Michael Easley Release All Funds Obligated to NC Cities and Counties

WHEREAS, North Carolina cities and counties have a tradition of promoting the highest ideals of good government and accountability to the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, fiscal responsibility is consistently demonstrated by each unit of local government developing and adhering to a budget balanced between revenues and expenditures for the service demanded by the public; and

WHEREAS, Governor Michael F. Easley's Executive Order of February 5 will result in an estimated loss of \$565,719 in revenue budgeted by Chatham County for State reimbursements associated with intangibles tax, inventory tax, beer and wine excise tax, and elderly homestead exemptions; and

WHEREAS, as the elected officials closest to voters and most aware of local needs, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners endeavors annually to strike delicate balances in developing a budget and setting the tax rate. Those efforts will be severely impaired by the decision for the State to withhold revenues collected on behalf of North Carolina's local governments; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the loss of revenue from the State, Chatham County is experiencing revenue shortfalls in interest earnings and sale tax receipts amounting to further estimated losses of revenue totaling \$250,000; and

WHEREAS, actions by the Governor and by the North Carolina General Assembly have resulted in the inability of cities and counties to meet budgetary obligations in the 2001-2002 Fiscal Year budget and could have an impact of as much as \$1.7 million on revenue estimates for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 budget should the Governor exercise this policy next year; and


WHEREAS, while the Chatham County Board of Commissioners appreciates and shares the Governor's commitment to public education, the withholding of state funds along with other revenue shortfalls will not only have a detrimental impact on the County's ability to fund public education, but the loss of state revenue reimbursement will seriously impede Chatham County's ability to provide for existing service needs such as a state mandated expansion of the Social

Services building, increased levels of law enforcement, accessible recreation services including the County's first community park, and increased preparation for response to antiterrorism incidents;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that Governor Michael F. Easley and the North Carolina General Assembly release all funds obligated to North Carolina's cities and counties; pledge to never again act to deprive citizens of local government services; for the General Assembly to act immediately to authorize each and every local government in North Carolina to enact a broad-based approach to financing, but not limited to, a local sales tax option; and to pledge to adopt a balanced state Budget by June 30 of each year as local governments are required to do.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that Governor Michael F. Easley and the North Carolina General Assembly pledge to restore balance to the state and local partnership, and to restore the confidence of our citizens in state and local officials.

Adopted this 18th day of March, 2002.



Gary Phillips, Chairman

Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett
Clerk to the Board