



NEW JERSEY SENATE

SENATE CHAMBERS

P.O. Box 099

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0099

December 9, 2019

The Honorable Philip D. Murphy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

We write to you on behalf of New Jersey cities that are in dire need of the State's support to successfully counter the City of New York's effort to relocate its homeless residents to communities across the Garden State.

As you surely are aware, Mayor Bill de Blasio has championed an \$89 million Special One-Time Assistance (SOTA) program that provides his city's homeless with a year's worth of rent to move elsewhere.

New York City is providing recipients of this assistance with a one-time payout to leave for places like Newark, Elizabeth, and East Orange, without any input from those municipalities. It's disgraceful that Mayor de Blasio's solution to helping the most challenged New Yorkers is to ship them off and make them someone else's problem.

At the same time, many New Jersey municipalities are struggling with challenges of their own, including the nation's highest property taxes, unfunded pension and benefit liabilities, overdevelopment, underfunded schools, and an opioid epidemic.

As the name of the program implies, the "one-time assistance" provided by New York City does not include additional financial aid to those municipalities to support the many increased costs that accompany the new residents.

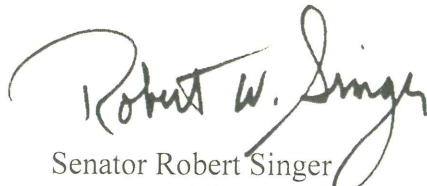
Last week, the City of Newark filed a lawsuit in federal court that seeks to end the SOTA program. The City of Elizabeth has announced its intention to participate in the litigation.

Since substantial State municipal and school aid flows to the cities that have seen the greatest influx of New Yorkers under the SOTA program, this is a matter that impacts every New Jersey taxpayer.

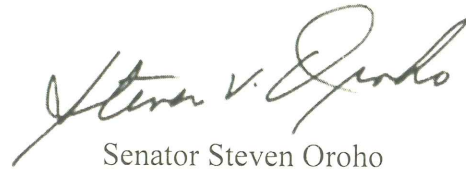
We therefore urge the State of New Jersey through the Office of the Attorney General to take over this lawsuit on behalf of the individual municipalities that are currently standing on the own against the City of New York.

Given the potential impact of the SOTA program on New Jersey's finances and those of its taxpayers, we believe this dedication of resources would be well justified.

Sincerely,



Senator Robert Singer
Deputy Republican Leader



Senator Steven Oroho
Republican Budget Officer

cc: The Honorable Gurbir S. Grewal
New Jersey Attorney General

The Honorable Ras Baraka
Mayor, City of Newark

The Honorable J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor, City of Elizabeth