

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

WHEREAS Governor Rendell has advocated for and pledged 25 million dollars of taxpayer funds to facilitate the construction and relocation of the Barnes Foundation to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

WHEREAS the unique and intended educational and aesthetic experience of visitors to the Barnes Foundation would be forever lost if moved from its home in Merion, Lower Merion Township, a mere five miles away from the proposed location.

WHEREAS the Barnes Foundation is our treasured institution and is part of the fabric, character and culture of Lower Merion Township.

WHEREAS keeping the Barnes Foundation in Merion presents a significant opportunity to advance true regionalism, tourism and cooperation between the suburbs and the City of Philadelphia as expressed by the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation, the City Avenue Special Services District, and other bodies devoted to regionalism and economic development;

WHEREAS the Merion neighbors and Friends of the Barnes have asked the Barnes Foundation to explore steps to dramatically increase the number of visitors to the Barnes in Merion, to increase opportunities for social events, to improve ticketing procedures including a live operator, and to take such other measures as to enhance and increase visitation to the Barnes and to substantially improve the financial condition of the Barnes Foundation.

WHEREAS it is our belief that moving the Barnes from Merion is in direct contravention of the intent and purpose of Albert Barnes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The plans to move the Barnes Foundation from Merion to the Parkway in Philadelphia should be forever abandoned.
2. The Barnes Foundation Board of Trustees shall explore all means to maximize revenues from operations in Merion and work with the neighbors in Lower Merion to increase visitation and financial opportunities.
3. The Barnes Foundation Board of Trustees shall explore avenues to integrate visitation into the Philadelphia tourist experience without relocating the Barnes.

It is hereby directed that the Township Secretary shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Barnes Foundation Board of Trustees, and the Boards of the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Annenberg Foundation, the Lenfest Foundation, Governor Edward G. Rendell, State Senator Constance Williams, State Representative Michael Gerber, U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, U.S. Representative Jim Gerlach, Mayor John F. Street and Councilman Michael Nutter.

Date

On Behalf of the Lower Merion
Board of Commissioners