

BOROUGH OF AVALON

RESOLUTION NO. 10105

**OPPOSITION TO FORCED LOCAL GOVERNMENT MERGERS
AND CONSOLIDATIONS**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF AVALON,
COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, IN OPPOSITION TO FORCED MERGERS AND
CONSOLIDATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN
PENNSYLVANIA.**

WHEREAS, the municipalities are excellent fiscal stewards that have been doing more with less ever since the days of William Penn and are run by elected officials that live and work in the communities they represent, and are more committed to working together and the responsible and efficient use of tax dollars than any other level of government; and

WHEREAS, various special interests suggest that there are too many local governments in Pennsylvania and that by reducing this figure through forced boundary change will somehow lead to greater economic conditions and better delivery of services in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, no one has ever proven that bigger, centralized government is better or even more cost effective than local municipal government; and

WHEREAS, governments that rely on consolidated county-based governments generally have higher tax burdens than smaller governments; and

WHEREAS, recent reports of financially distressed municipalities in Pennsylvania are largely contained to the commonwealth's larger cities and urban areas; and

WHEREAS, HB 2431 (*Session of 2010*), if adopted, would change the Pennsylvania constitution and establish the county as the basic level of local government in Pennsylvania, with municipalities existing only under the jurisdiction of the county and having only those duties and responsibilities as determined by the county; and

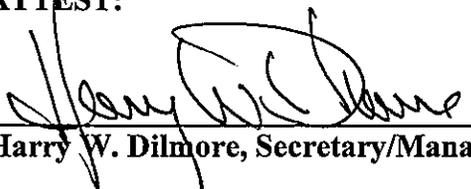
WHEREAS, SB 1357 (*Session of 2010*), if adopted, would establish an unelected, statewide boundary commission to review and make conclusions to the General Assembly for the merger, consolidation, or annexation of municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipality supports voluntary merger or consolidation of local governments if the process is initiated at the local level and it has the support of the majority of the residents of all affected municipalities; and, therefore, it is RESOLVED that the Borough of Avalon, County of Allegheny, opposes any measure, initiative, or plan that mandates the forced merger or consolidation of local governments; and be further

RESOLVED, that the General Assembly be urged to oppose HB 2431, SB 1357, and any other legislation that has been, or may be introduced in the future to weaken the responsiveness and effectiveness of local government.

ADOPTED by the Avalon Council Members of the Borough of Avalon, County of Allegheny, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this 21st day of September, 2010.

ATTEST:



Harry W. Dilmore, Secretary/Manager

BORORUGH OF AVALON



Edward Repp, Council President

Date: 9/21/10

SEAL

THIS RESOLUTION examined and approved by me this 21st day of September 2010



Mayor David Haslett