

2015-K647

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York Jets and the Buffalo Bills to donate all revenue made by military sectors

WHEREAS, Public documents were uncovered detailing marketing contracts between 2011 and 2014 totaling \$377,000 between the New Jersey Army National Guard and the New York Jets; and

WHEREAS, According to National Guard spokesman Patrick Daugherty, promoting and increasing the public's understanding and appreciation of military service in the New Jersey Army National Guard increases the propensity for service in our ranks, referring to the \$377,000 the Jets received from the Jersey Guard between 2011-2014; and

WHEREAS, In addition, according to Christopher Baxter and Jonathan Salant of NJ.com, the New Jersey Army National Guard and the Department of Defense paid the Jets a total of \$377,000 from 2011 to 2014 for the salutes and other advertising, citing federal contracts; and

WHEREAS, Between 2011-2012 stipulating that teams would be paid sums ranging from \$60,000-\$1 million each (in federal taxpayer money) to pause before the start of games and salute the city's "hometown heroes"; and

WHEREAS, These are expressed as efforts to recruit but in no way has been proven effective; and

WHEREAS, The New York Jets weren't the only team accepting tax dollars in exchange for access to football; the Falcons, Ravens, Bills, Bengals, Browns, Cowboys, Packers, Colts, Chiefs, Dolphins, Vikings, Steelers and Rams have also accepted the money; and

WHEREAS, The New York Jets and 13 other NFL teams took \$5.4 million in taxpayer money between 2011 and 2014 to give shout outs to America's war heroes, most of which came from the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, According to a NJ.com breakdown, other teams that received

taxpayer funds include the Cincinnati Bengals (\$138,960), Cleveland Browns (\$22,500), the Green Bay Packers (\$600,000), Pittsburgh Steelers (\$36,000), Minnesota Vikings (\$605,000), Atlanta Falcons (\$1,049,500), Buffalo Bills (\$679,000), Dallas Cowboys (\$62,500), Miami Dolphins (\$20,000), St. Louis Rams (\$60,000), Kansas City Chiefs (\$250,000), Indianapolis Colts (\$620,000), and Baltimore Ravens (\$884,500); and

WHEREAS, If these teams truly want to honor our veterans and service members, they should be making these patriotic overtures out of gratitude for free; few fans know the defense department is funneling taxpayer money into the NFL in exchange for veteran tributes; and

WHEREAS, The public believes they're doing it as a public service or a sense of patriotism; and

WHEREAS, The Giants, Mets and Yankees did not receive military money, but have all staged events to honor the United States Armed Forces; money came as part of advertising contracts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the New York Jets and the Buffalo Bills to donate all revenue made by military sectors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the New York Jets and the Buffalo Bills.