



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION 20-231

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MONMOUTH COUNTY DESIGNATING THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS A STIGMA-FREE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Monmouth County Department of Human Services, supports the designation of Stigma-Free Communities in every municipality; and

WHEREAS, at their June 26, 2018 meeting, the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously passed a resolution supporting the designation of Monmouth County as a Stigma-Free Community; and

WHEREAS, Monmouth County recognizes that one in four Americans has experienced mental illness, including substance use disorders, in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, including more than half of our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans treated at Veteran's Administration hospitals; and

WHEREAS, given the serious nature of this public health problem, we must continue to reach the millions who need help; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease; and

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Communities aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and substance use disorder and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness and/or substance use feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed; and

WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat the diseases of mental illness and substance use disorder so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless; and

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Communities will raise awareness of resources, inclusive language, and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Highlands recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Monmouth in designating the Borough of Highlands as a Stigma-Free Community.

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BRASWELL			X			
MAZZOLA			X			
RYAN			X			
VALKOS		X	X			
BROULLON	X		X			

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

DATE OF VOTE: October 21, 2020

Michelle Hutchinson, Acting Municipal Clerk