



Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE

MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS STIGMA FREE TOWN

WHEREAS, Monroe Township and the Monroe Township Council recognizes that, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ("SAMHSA"), one in five Americans have experienced issues with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, despite major accomplishments and the progress achieved, New Jersey must still overcome significant challenges before it can reach the goal of making quality mental health care available to all those who need it; and

WHEREAS, according to SAMHSA, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, and according to the Veteran's Administration ("VA"), more than half of all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans hospitalized at VA hospitals are treated for mental illness, and the stigma associated with mental illness is the biggest roadblock to recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Codey Fund for Mental Health has initiated a statewide campaign requesting towns throughout New Jersey to designate their municipality a Stigma Free Town; and

WHEREAS, by declaring Monroe Township a Stigma Free Town, Monroe Township supports the elimination of any stigma associated with mental health illness and will promote public awareness of mental health issues and the removal of any barriers to recovery, and work to overcome stigma, stereotyping and discrimination.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that I, GERALD W. TAMBURRO, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim Monroe Township as a STIGMA FREE TOWN and urge all citizens to work to overcome stigma, stereotyping and discrimination against those with mental health illness.

Dated: May 22, 2018

GERALD W. TAMBURRO, MAYOR