

Office of the Mayor



Proclamation

**NATIONAL FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY
AUGUST 21, 2025**

WHEREAS, illicit fentanyl is the leading cause of overdose deaths in the United States and has become the deadliest drug threat our nation has ever faced, impacting communities of all sizes, including our own; and

WHEREAS, National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day, established by Facing Fentanyl and families who have experienced unimaginable loss, is observed each year on August 21 to honor the lives lost to illicit fentanyl poisoning, raise public awareness, and promote education and prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data shows that 59% of fatal overdoses involve missed opportunities for intervention, with a majority occurring when individuals are alone - underscoring the urgent need for community vigilance, connection, and access to resources; and

WHEREAS, this day unites families, first responders, educators, prevention advocates, public officials, and community members to take meaningful action through memorials, forums, public education, and policy initiatives aimed at saving lives and preventing further tragedy; and

WHEREAS, this epidemic has touched families in our own community, including the family of James Ryan Ferrara, a beloved son, brother, and friend, whose life was tragically cut short on March 17, 2024, due to fentanyl poisoning. James's vibrant spirit, kindness, and love for those around him continue to inspire efforts to raise awareness and protect others from similar loss. His memory stands as a powerful reminder of the urgent need for education, prevention, and compassion in the face of this crisis; and

WHEREAS, behind every statistic is a person whose life mattered – a son or daughter, a parent, a sibling, a friend – whose absence is felt deeply and daily by those left behind. These stories remind us that this crisis is not abstract, but personal and profoundly human

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEPHEN DALINA, Mayor of the Township of Monroe, do hereby proclaim **August 21, 2025** as **National Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day** in **Monroe Township** and urges all residents to join in honoring the lives lost, supporting families affected by fentanyl poisoning, and taking action to build a safer, more informed, and compassionate community.

Dated: August 21, 2025


STEPHEN DALINA, MAYOR