

**MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP
BURLINGTON COUNTY**

RESOLUTION 2023-3-12

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE TOWNSHIP OF MANSFIELD AS A
STIGMA-FREE ZONE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**

WHEREAS, The Township of Mansfield is committed to establishing the district as a Stigma-Free Zone supporting efforts for Mental Health Awareness; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that nearly one in five or roughly 53 million Americans live with a mental illness, and 1 in 6 youth ages 6 - 17 experience a mental health disorder each year but only half receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 36.7% of students reported persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness; nearly 19% of high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among high school-aged youth ages 14-18; in 2018, a total of 48,344 persons of all ages died from suicide and where suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States; 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 disease; and

WHEREAS, when severe mental illness goes untreated or under-treated, it can lead to alcohol or substance abuse, dropping out of school, unemployment, homelessness, or suicide; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of mental illness is an effective way to reduce the stigma associated with the disease and encourage those who are affected to seek services and support; and

WHEREAS, The Township of Mansfield is committed to creating public interest and open dialogue about stigmas, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by the community and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of a stigma, so recovery can begin; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Township of Mansfield in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, is hereby designated as a Stigma-Free Zone.

MOTION: SISZ SECOND: BOYD

ROLL CALL:

AYES: SISZ, BOYD, TALLON, MOJENA

NAYS: GOLEND ABSTAIN: NONE ABSENT: NONE

CERTIFICATION

I, **Linda Semus, RMC, CMR**, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, at their Regular Meeting held on March 15, 2023 at the Mansfield Township Complex at 7:00 PM.

LINDA SEMUS, RMC, CMR, Municipal Clerk