

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 20-234**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING
THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK AS 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 Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Monmouth in designating the Borough of Red Bank as a Stigma-Free Community.

	Motion	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yassin		X			
Councilwoman Triggiano		X			
Councilman Ballard		X			
Councilman Yngstrom	Second	X			
Councilman Ziprich	Motion	X			
Councilwoman Horgan		X			

Dated: October 14, 2020

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, at a meeting held on October 14, 2020.

Pamela Borghi

Pamela Borghi, Municipal Clerk