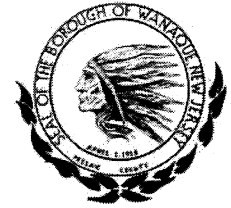




**BOROUGH OF WANAUKE
COUNTY OF PASSAIC
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**



RESOLUTION# 96-0-2024

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING WANAUKE AS A STIGMA-FREE COMMUNITY.

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

WHEREAS, at their August 16, 2016 meeting, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously passed a resolution supporting the designation of Stigma-Free Zones in every municipality in the County of Passaic, and;

WHEREAS, Passaic 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;

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 create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness 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 disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and;



**BOROUGH OF WANAUKE
COUNTY OF PASSAIC
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**



RESOLUTION# 96-0-2024

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING WANAUKE AS A STIGMA-FREE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Communities will raise awareness of resources 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 Wanaque recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Passaic in designating Wanaque as a Stigma-Free Community.

Dated: May 13, 2024

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE

<i>Councilman</i>	<i>Motion</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Councilman</i>	<i>Motion</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Balunis						Pasquariello					
Cortellessa						Pettet					
Leonard											

ATTEST:

Katherine J. Falone RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Daniel Mahler
Mayor

This resolution, when adopted, must remain in the possession of the Municipal Clerk. Certified copies are available.



Borough of Wanaque

579 RINGWOOD AVENUE
WANAQUE, NEW JERSEY 07465
PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Office of:
PAUL M. CARELLI
Borough Administrator

Phone: (973) 839-3000 x-7113
Fax: (973) 839-4959
pcarelli@wanaqueborough.com

PRESS RELEASE

May 13, 2024

BOROUGH OF WANAQUE DECLARES MUNICIPALITY A STIGMA-FREE ZONE

One in four adults experiences a diagnosable mental illness every year and many of these individuals do not seek help because of fear of shame or judgment from friends, family, and co-workers. On May 13, 2024, the Borough of Wanaque made the first steps towards eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness. The elimination of mental health stigma will allow residents to get the resources they need without judgment.

Borough of Wanaque representatives passed a resolution designating the municipality a Stigma-Free Zone in order to create an environment in which residents will feel free to seek treatment for the disease of mental illness without the fear of being stigmatized. The Borough of Wanaque joins the County of Passaic in declaring a Stigma-Free Zone.

The Borough of Wanaque hopes to raise awareness of the disease of mental illness, provide an effective way to reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and encourage those who are affected to seek services and feel supported. The establishment of this Stigma-Free Zone will raise awareness of local mental health resources so no one resident needs to feel hopeless or alone. The elimination of stigma will enable residents to ask for help when needed so recovery can begin, hope is inspired, and tragedies are avoided.

The Borough of Wanaque urges anyone who would like more information on the Stigma-Free Campaign to contact the Wanaque Health Department and to help us to eliminate stigma and promote wellness amongst all Borough of Wanaque and Passaic County residents.

Paul M. Carelli
Borough Administrator
May 13, 2024