

March 24, 2020

**Resolution 2020-74**  
**Stigma-Free Initiative Resolution**

**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;

**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 Borough of Bradley Beach recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Monmouth in designating the Borough of Bradley Beach as a **Stigma-Free Community**.

Seconded by Councilman Weber and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mr. Bonnell	X			
Mr. Gubitosi	X			
Mr. Sexsmith	X			
Mr. Weber	X			
Mayor Engelstad	X			

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Erica Kostyz, Municipal Clerk, Borough of Bradley Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council at the March 24, 2020 meeting.

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Erica Kostyz, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk