

**TOWNSHIP OF CHESTERFIELD
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-5-4**

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

WHEREAS, the Township of Chesterfield 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, Township of Chesterfield 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 Chesterfield in the County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, is hereby designated as a Stigma-Free Zone.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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I, Caryn Hoyer, Clerk of the Township of Chesterfield in the County of Burlington and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and accurate copy of the Resolution approved by the Township Committee at a duly advertised meeting held on May 26, 2022 at which a quorum was present.

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Caryn Hoyer, RMC  
Township Clerk