

BOROUGH OF MENDHAM

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING AUGUST 31ST AS "OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY" IN MENDHAM BOROUGH

WHEREAS, drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by compulsive or difficult to control drug use despite harmful consequences; and

WHEREAS, drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, 2,900 people died from drug overdoses in 2018 and 67,367 individuals died from drug overdoses throughout the United States and

WHEREAS, for every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, their family, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death, and to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, recognizing "Overdose Awareness Day" in Mendham Borough sends a strong message to former or current substance users that they are valued and that overdose death is preventable.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine Serrano-Glassner, Mayor of the Borough of Mendham, and the Mendham Borough Council, proclaim that August 31st shall be designated as "Overdose Awareness Day" in the Borough of Mendham and call upon all citizens to observe "Overdose Awareness Day" to help raise awareness of the emotional and economic toll drug addiction and overdoses have on the individual, their family and the community at large, and to provide whatever support they can to help former and current substance abusers to obtain treatment for their emotional and physical well-being and health. Drug-related death is preventable.

Dated: July 15, 2020

Under the Seal of
THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM
This 15th day of July 2020

Christine Serrano-Glassner, Mayor