

Proclamation

Overdose Awareness Day

August 31, 2020

Whereas, addiction (substance use disorder) is a disease, and the discrimination associated with addiction must be addressed so no one feels shame or disgrace because of a drug overdose; and

Whereas, prescription and illegal drug overdoses are now the number-one cause of accidental death in the Nation, surpassing car accidents; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 50,000 people die annually as a result of drug overdoses and another 2.5 million are treated in emergency departments for the misuse or abuse of drugs every year in the United States; and

Whereas, according to the State of NJ Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner, 3,006 people died statewide from drug overdoses in 2018, with numbers showing an increase for 2020; and

Whereas, 36 fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses have occurred in Howell Township between January 1st and July 22nd, 2020; and

Whereas, by acknowledging residents who have been affected by overdoses, we help the general public understand its effects on New Jersey communities, including Howell Township; and

Whereas, practitioners, persons at high risk, family members, and others can save lives by learning about the signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone and then call 911; and

Whereas, the Howell Alliance for substance abuse prevention and mental health awareness remains committed to educating Howell Township community members across populations about substance abuse and overdose prevention, as well as stigma reduction; and

Whereas, August 31st is recognized in communities around the world as a day to remember individuals who were lost to drug overdoses, to support their families and loved ones, and to reduce the stigmas surrounding addiction and overdoses;

Now, Therefore, I, Theresa Berger, Mayor of the Township of Howell, on behalf of the Governing Body, do hereby proclaim **AUGUST 31st** each year, from now forward, as **OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY** in Howell Township and urge all residents to learn about substance use disorders as a disease, to aid and support those who are affected by it, to encourage those with substance use disorders to seek assistance, to reduce the stigmas surrounding substance abuse and overdoses, and to participate in substance abuse prevention education efforts across all of our community's populations.

August 11, 2020

Theresa Berger, Mayor

Township of Howell