



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0121, **Version:** 2

Dept/ Agency: Offices of Municipal Council/City Clerk

Action: () Ratifying (X) Authorizing () Amending

Type of Service: Declaring Intent

Purpose: Declaring the City of Newark, New Jersey a Stigma Free Town

Additional Information:

Sponsor: Council Member Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the City of Newark recognizes that a significant number of Americans have experienced some sort of mental illness according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and

WHEREAS, “Mental and substance abuse disorders can have a powerful effect on the health of individuals, their families, and their communities. In 2014, an estimated 9.8 million adults aged 18 and older in the United States had a serious mental illness, and 1.7 million of which were aged 18 to 25. Also, 15.7 million adults (aged 18 or older) and 2.8 million youth (aged 12 to 17) had a major depressive episode during the past year. In 2014, an estimated 22.5 million Americans aged 12 and older self-reported needing treatment for alcohol or illicit drug use, and 11.8 million adults self-reported needing mental health treatment or counseling in the past year. These disorders are among the top conditions that cause disability and carry a high burden of disease in the United States, resulting in significant costs to families, employers, and publicly funded health systems. By 2020, mental and substance use disorders will surpass all physical diseases as a major cause of disability worldwide;” and

Prevention of Substance Abuse and Mental Illness.” Overview. SAMHSA.

WHEREAS, despite major accomplishments and the progress achieved, New Jersey must still overcome significant challenges before it can reach the goal of making quality mental health care available to all those who need it; and

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined and more than half of all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans hospitalized at Veterans Health Administration (VA) hospitals are treated for mental illness according to the VA, and the stigma associated with mental illness is the biggest roadblock to recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Codey Fund for Mental Health has initiated a state-wide campaign requesting towns throughout New Jersey designate their municipality a Stigma Free Town; and

WHEREAS, by declaring the City of Newark, a Stigma Free Town, the City of Newark supports the elimination of stigma associated with mental health illness and will promote public awareness of mental health issues and work to overcome stigma, stereotyping, discrimination, and removing any barriers to recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

1. The City of Newark, New Jersey is a Stigma Free Town.
2. The City of Newark road signs shall be erected by the Department of Engineering, showing the establishment of a Stigma Free Town.

STATEMENT

This resolution hereby declares the intent of the Municipal Council that the City of Newark, New Jersey, shall be a Stigma Free Town.