

RESOLUTION

282(22)

November 9, 2022

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day takes place on the 1st of December each year. It is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) related illness; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year’s World AIDS Day will be *Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV* - emphasizes accountability and action, affirming, both in the United States and around the globe, through an approach that centers on communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 40 million people worldwide have died of AIDS since the start of the epidemic, and an estimated 38 million people were living with HIV in 2020; 36 million were adults, and 2 million were children (0–14 years); and

WHEREAS, about 6.1 million people worldwide did not know they were living with HIV in 2020. Early HIV diagnosis is crucial. Everyone aged 13-64 should be tested at least once. People at higher risk of acquiring (or exposure to) HIV should be tested at least annually; and

WHEREAS, the only way to know for sure whether you have HIV is to get tested. Knowing your HIV status helps you make healthy decisions to prevent getting or transmitting HIV; and

WHEREAS, a person with HIV who takes HIV medicine as prescribed and gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners; and

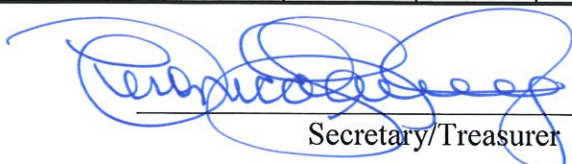
WHEREAS, this year, we observe World AIDS Day in the context of two other infectious disease threats—COVID-19 and Monkeypox—which have heavily impacted many of those same communities. These epidemics have further highlighted that our public health response to HIV will require us to address health disparities holistically; and

WHEREAS, through the PrEP Program, the Ocean County Health Department continues to promote opportunities to increase awareness of the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS in our communities by offering free counseling and testing with a PrEP counselor to all eligible residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Ocean County Board of Health, that Thursday, December 1, 2022 is hereby proclaimed World AIDS Day in Ocean County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners.

Name	Bacchione	Hill	Kubiel	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Mallon
Ayes	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Abstain								
Nays								
Absent					✓			



Secretary/Treasurer