

**RESOLUTION**

**320(23)**

November 1, 2023

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 is *Let Communities Lead*. The world can end AIDS, with communities leading the way. Organizations of communities living with, at risk of, or affected by HIV are the frontline of progress in the HIV response. Communities connect people with person-centered public health services, build trust, innovate, monitor implementation of policies and services, and hold providers accountable; and

WHEREAS, this World AIDS Day is more than a celebration of the achievements of communities; it is a call to action to enable and support communities in their leadership roles. World AIDS Day 2023 will highlight that to unleash the full potential of community leadership to enable the end of AIDS; and

WHEREAS, about 6.1 million people worldwide did not know they were living with HIV in 2020. Early HIV diagnosis is crucial. Everyone is encouraged to 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

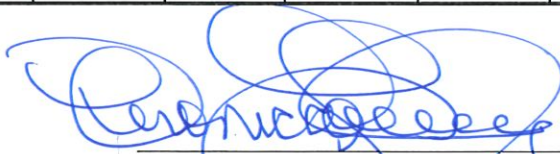
WHEREAS, a person with HIV who takes HIV medicine as prescribed and gets and stays virally suppressed or undetectable can stay healthy and has effectively no risk of sexually transmitting HIV to HIV-negative partners; and

WHEREAS, 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, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that Thursday, December 1, 2023 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	Gupta	Hill	Kubiel	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Mallon
Ayes		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Abstain									
Nays									
Absent	✓		✓						




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Secretary/Treasurer