

**RESOLUTION 371(24)**

December 11, 2024

WHEREAS, **Cervical Health Awareness Month** every January is a chance to raise awareness about how women can protect themselves from human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, HPV is a very common infection that causes almost all cases of cervical cancer. About **79 million Americans currently have HPV** and many people do not even know they have it; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 14,000 women are diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer (cancer that has spread from the surface of the cervix to tissue deeper in the cervix or to other body parts) and more than 4,200 die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, cervical cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women. Cervical pre-cancers are diagnosed far more often than invasive cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, the cervical cancer death rate dropped significantly with the increased use of the Pap test. This screening procedure can find changes in the cervix before cancer develops. It can also find cervical cancer early – when it's small and easier to cure. Screening should begin at age 25; and

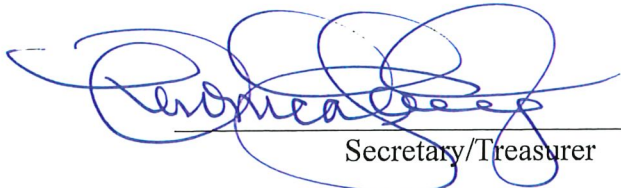
WHEREAS, since almost all cases of cervical cancer are caused by HPV, vaccines that help protect against the virus could help prevent the vast majority of cases; and

WHEREAS, the HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that cause about 90% of cervical cancers. These vaccines are most effective when taken before exposure to HPV; and

WHEREAS, the **Ocean County Health Department** continues to promote HPV vaccination through several venues, including promotion through school nurses, immunization requirement letters to parents, and other relevant sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the **Ocean County Board of Health, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey** does hereby proclaim **January 2025 as Cervical Health Awareness Month** and encourages all our citizens to recognize that cervical cancer is preventable, and to encourage and support the women in our lives in taking charge of their health and availing themselves of the tests and vaccines that have proven so effective in preventing cervical cancer.

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

  
Secretary/Treasurer