

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders, along with the Ringwood Borough Council support the designation of Stigma-Free Communities in every municipality, and;

WHEREAS, at their Jan.15 2019 meeting the Ringwood Borough Council passed a resolution supporting the designation of Ringwood Borough as a Stigma-Free Community, and;

WHEREAS, the Library Assoc.of Ringwood Inc. and its Board of Trustees recognizes that one in four Americans has experienced mental illness, including substance use disorders, in a given year according to the National Institute of Mental Health, and;

WHEREAS, mental health problems are more common than cancer and heart disease combined, affecting children and adults, and;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease, and;

WHEREAS, Stigma-Free Communities aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma and;

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no “health” without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed, and;

WHEREAS, establishing Stigma-Free Communities will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Library Assoc.of Ringwood Inc. by its Board of Trustees recognizes the community need and supports the efforts of the Borough of Ringwood and hereby resolves that it’s Public Library is now and will continue to be a Stigma-Free public library.

Dated: Feb.25, 2019

VOTES: YES   9   NO   0   ABSTAIN   0  

Motion and Resolution carry:   X   unanimously

SIGNED: Amy Boyle Geisel, President

Library Assoc.of Ringwood Inc.

Board of Trustees/ Ringwood Public Library