TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

RESOLUTION NUMBER 147-14

STIGMA FREE TOWN STATUS
TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD

WHEREAS, The Maplewood Township Committee in the State of New Jersey and the County of Essex recognizes that one in five americans have experienced some sort of mental illness according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA); and

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 (SAMHSA), and more than half of all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans hospitalized at VA hospitals are treated for mental illness according to Veteran's Administration, and the stigma associated with mental illness is the biggest roadblock to recovery; and

WHEREAS, The Cody Fund for Mental Health has initiated a statewide campaign requesting towns throughout New Jersey designate their municipality a Stigma Free Town; and

WHEREAS, by declaring Maplewood, a Stigma Free Town, The Maplewood Township Committee 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; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, by the Maplewood Township Committee in the State of New Jersey in the County of Essex, that the Township of Maplewood is a Stigma Free Town. Now it be further resolved, that on major thoroughfares in and out of the municipality, road signs be erected showing the establishment of a Stigma Free Town.

I, Elizabeth J. Fritzen, Township Clerk of the Township of Maplewood, in the County of Essex, and State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Maplewood, County of Essex and State of New Jersey at regular meeting of said Committee July 15, 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Township of Maplewood in the County of Essex and the State of New Jersey this 15th day of July, 2014.

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Elizabeth J. Fritzen, R.M.C., C.M.C.
Township Clerk

The Codey
Fund for
Mental Health

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Changing thinking. Changing Lives.

Mayor Victor DeLuca
Maplewood Town Hall
574 Valley St
Maplewood, NJ 07040

June 17, 2014

Dear Mayor DeLuca:

The Codey Fund for Mental Health was founded in 2012 by my wife and I on the belief that access to comprehensive care and quality treatment for individuals with mental illness is a right, and that the stigma associated with mental illness is the single biggest barrier between the people suffering with mental health disorders and the treatment that can change their lives.

The Codey Fund supports organizations and programs that raise public awareness of mental health issues and works to overcome stigma, stereotyping and discrimination; advance mental health education for at-risk youth, mothers with postpartum depression, the homeless and patients in psychiatric hospitals; and promote effective treatment and sustain recovery.

It is vitally important to promote awareness of the stigma associated with mental illness because it is the biggest roadblock for individuals seeking treatment. Mental health problems do not discriminate; there are no barriers to this disease regardless of your gender, age, or race.

This has been the driving force behind our decision to create a tax-exempt organization focused on ending the stigma associated with mental illness. Our goal is to enable and encourage those with mental illness to Stand Up, Speak Out, and Get Help.

As part of our core mission, the Codey Fund has started an awareness campaign throughout the state of New Jersey seeking municipalities to become "Stigma Free." By becoming a "Stigma Free Town," we hope to promote public awareness and work towards overcoming stigma, stereotyping, discrimination, and removing any barriers to recovery.

We look forward to working with you in combating the stigma associated with mental illness.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Codey

Richard J. Codey
Co-Founder