



Township Council

c/o Township Clerk
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Meeting: 09/06/16 07:00 PM

Department: Township Clerk

Category: Establish

DOC ID: 3452

ORDINANCE (ID # 3452)

ORDINANCE NO. 23-2016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-148 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK TO ESTABLISH A STIGMA FREE ADVISORY BOARD BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck that Ordinance #23-2016 pass upon second and final reading and that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law.authorized to advertise same according to law and to provide the appropriate notices in accordance with law.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-148 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK TO ESTABLISH A STIGMA FREE ADVISORY BOARD

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck that Ordinance #23-2016 pass upon second and final reading and that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law.authorized to advertise same according to law and to provide the appropriate notices in accordance with law.

HISTORY:

08/16/16 Township Council INTRODUCED

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Elie Y. Katz, Deputy Mayor
SECONDER:	Mark J. Schwartz, Councilman
AYES:	Katz, Castle, Rice, Schwartz, Sohn
ABSENT:	Mohammed Hameeduddin, Henry J. Pruitt

TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ

ORDINANCE NO. 23-2016 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-148 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK TO ESTABLISH A STIGMA FREE ADVISORY BOARD BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK THAT ORDINANCE #23-2016 PASS UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND THAT THE TOWNSHIP CLERK IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO ADVERTISE THE SAME ACCORDING TO LAW. AUTHORIZED TO ADVERTISE SAME ACCORDING TO LAW AND TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE NOTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health reports that 1 in 4 adults experiences mental illness in a given year, 1 in 17 adults live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder, and 20% of youth ages 13-18 and 13% of youth ages 8 to 15 experience severe mental disorders in a given year; and

WHEREAS, despite its prevalence in our society, society often attaches a stigma upon persons suffering from mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the stigma which society attaches to mental illness results in experiences and feelings of shame, embarrassment, distress and hopelessness in individuals having mental disorders and is identified as the primary reason individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of “Stigma Free Zones” aims to inspire public interest and open dialogue about the effects of stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness, create a culture in which individuals having the disease of mental illness feel supported by their communities and neighbors, and encourage such individuals to seek treatment for the disease without fear of being subjected to stigma and thereby begin recovery, restore hope and avoid tragedies; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck finds that the designation of Teaneck as a “Stigma Free Zone” and the establishment of an advisory board to raise the awareness of resources and encourage individuals suffering from mental health disorders to seek care will assist in eliminating the stigma which society attaches to mental health disorders and will promote better mental health within the Township of Teaneck; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further finds that stigmas associated with suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, being discriminated against on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and being subjected to harassment, intimidation and bullying must also be addressed and eliminated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Teaneck, Bergen County, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Section 2-148 of Article XXX, Advisory Boards, of Chapter 2, Charter/Administrative Code, of the Code of the Township of Teaneck is hereby amended to add thereto paragraph (e) to read in full as follows:

- (e) The Township of Teaneck is hereby declared as a “Stigma Free Zone” and, in furtherance thereof, there is hereby established a Stigma Free Advisory Board having a membership, duties and functions, as follows:
 - (1) Purposes: The purposes of the Stigma Free Advisory Board are to raise public awareness of the stigmas associated with mental illness, sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, being discriminated against on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and being subjected to harassment, intimidation and bullying with the goal of eliminating such stigmas and encouraging individuals suffering from the disease of mental illness and sexually transmitted diseases to seek treatment and to urge individuals who are subjected to discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying to report same to the appropriate authorities.
 - (2) Membership: The Council may appoint such number of Teaneck residents and other persons associated with local community groups, faith communities, local businesses, schools, mental health organizations, hospitals, physicians, attorneys, health care professionals, social service organizations and municipal officials as the Council deems appropriate who express a commitment to promoting a stigma free Teaneck. Appointments shall be for a one year period, expiring on June 30 of each year. The Council shall appoint a chairperson from among the membership each year.
 - (3) Functions: The Stigma Free Advisory Board may, subject to the availability of adequate funds, undertake a stigma free campaign, participate in public awareness programs to eliminate stigmas, host stigma free forums, distribute stigma free promotional materials, coordinate stigma free events with local community service organizations, advise the Council as to additional stigma free programs, and perform such other functions in furtherance of the purposes to eliminate stigmas within the Township of Teaneck

Section 2. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or other portion of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall, for any reason, be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or repeal the remainder of this ordinance.

Section 3. Inconsistency. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days following passage and publication as required by law.

Mohammed Hameeduddin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Issa Abbasi, Acting Municipal Clerk

INTRODUCED: _____

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

Issa A. Abbasi, MPA
Township Clerk

Lizette P. Parker,
Mayor