RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF MADISON PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND OVERCOMING THE STIGMA, STEREOTYPING AND DISCRIMINATION BY DECLARING THE BOROUGH OF MADISON A STIGMA FREE TOWN

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Madison in the State of New Jersey and County of Morris recognizes that one in five Americans have experienced some sort of mental illness according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services 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 Codey Fund for Mental Health has initiated a statewide campaign requesting towns throughout New Jersey to designate their municipality a Stigma Free Town; and

WHEREAS, by declaring the Borough of Madison, a Stigma Free Town, the Borough Council supports the elimination of the stigma 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Madison, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that the Borough of Madison is a Stigma Free Town.

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on major thoroughfares in and out of the Borough of Madison, road signs be erected showing the establishment of a Stigma Free Town.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED
August 11, 2014

ROBERT H. CONLEY, Mayor

Attest: ELIZABETH OSBORNE, Borough Clerk