

**TOWNSHIP OF HARDING  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
RESOLUTION #06-2024  
MARCH 14, 2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HARDING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH  
PROCLAIMING APRIL 1, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 7, 2024 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC  
HEALTH WEEK IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HARDING**

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**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 1995, then-President William J. Clinton issued the first proclamation declaring that National Public Health Week be celebrated the first full week of every April to promote healthy living, increase awareness on the benefits of healthy choices, and recognize the importance of public health in preventing illness, protecting communities, and advancing health and wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Public health Association (APHA) has since promoted National Public Health Week as a means of strengthening our public health system and advancing public health partnerships which are integral to improving individual, family, and community health; and

**WHEREAS**, a goal of National Public Health Week in 2024 is to acknowledge and promote the instrumental role and contributions of public health in improving the health and wellbeing of the people of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, National Public Health Week this year will be from April 1, 2024 to April 7, 2024 and the APHA theme for 2024 is “Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving: We Are All Public Health”; and

**WHEREAS**, public health serves as the basis for ensuring clean water, clean air, food safety, consumer safety, workplace safety, and public safety along with chronic disease and infectious disease prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the countless public health advancements in protecting individuals and communities, the United States and other nations continue to face global public health threats and challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, from 2019 to 2021, the life expectancy at birth for the United States declined by 2.7 years, the largest two-year decline in life expectancy since 1921-1923; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the leading causes of death in the United States are due to chronic health conditions which result in costly national and individual health expenditures;

**WHEREAS**, many chronic health conditions are extremely preventable, particularly through lifestyle risk reduction strategies including avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005 to 11.5 percent of the population in 2021 due to public health advocacy, policy, and educational efforts; and

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**WHEREAS**, despite reductions on cigarette smoking, electronic cigarettes have been the most used tobacco product among youth in the United States since 2014, with 10.0 percent of high school students reporting electronic cigarette use in 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths annually; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States there were an estimated 106,699 drug overdose deaths in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, racial and ethnic minority population in the United States continue to experience health disparities which result in significant morbidity and mortality as compared with the entire population of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, stark disparities in infant mortality by race and ethnicity, geography, and income including the fact that Black newborns experience infant mortality at a rate twice that of White infants; and

**WHEREAS**, women die from pregnancy complications in the United States at higher rate than in many other developed countries, with the rate of maternal mortality in 2020 being 23.8 per 100,000 live births, over 3 times the rate of most high income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse and neglect in the past year, with 1,750 children dying of abuse and neglect in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, mental and physical health are equally important component of overall health and mental illness increases the risk for many chronic health conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1 in 5 adults in the United States live with mental illness and 1 in 5 youths aged 13 to 18 either currently or at some point in their life suffer a debilitating mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 25 adults in the United States lives with a serious mental illness including major depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia; and

**WHEREAS**, 49,449 people died by suicide in 2022, with a 2.6 percent increase from 2021, with firearms being used in 50 percent of suicides; and

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**WHEREAS**, violence is the a leading cause of premature death in the United States and it is estimated that more than 7 individuals per hour die a violent death in our nation costing billions of

dollars to our national economy and resulting in social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the date of this resolution, the United States and other nations continue to address COVID-19 and other global public health threats posed by existing and emerging infectious diseases which require support and investment to ensure public health infrastructure, programs, and workforce including in federal, state, and local health departments, public health laboratories, healthcare, and first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases along with corresponding health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a 6.9 percent decrease in infant mortality, 3.2 percent decrease in cardiovascular disease deaths; 1.4 percent decrease in diabetes-related deaths, and 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related mortality;

**WHEREAS**, voting helps and civic engagement helps shape the public policy and conditions in which people can be healthy and good health is consistently positively associated with higher likelihood of voter participation, however only 60% of eligible voters reported voting in 2023 elections; and

**WHEREAS**, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the full range of health threats including disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other disasters caused by human activities and public health emergencies.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Harding Township Board of Health, of the Township of Harding, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that:

1. April 1, 2024 to April 7, 2024 be proclaimed National Public Health Week in the Township of Harding and in so doing, the importance of public health in preventing illness, protecting communities, and advancing health and wellness be promoted and recognized; and
2. All residents be encouraged to help family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and leaders to advance healthy living, promote mental wellbeing, and increase awareness regarding the

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benefits of healthy choices including avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and taking steps to prevent unintentional injuries; and

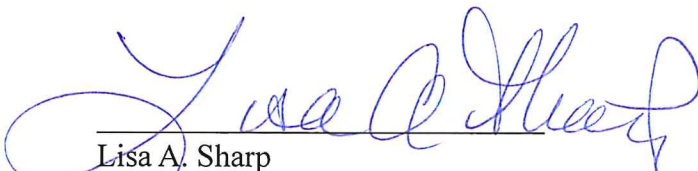
3. All residents recognize that voting and being civically engaged shapes how communities allocate resources to support opportunities for health lives; and
4. All residents recognize that through “Protecting, Connecting, and Thriving: We Are All Public Health.”

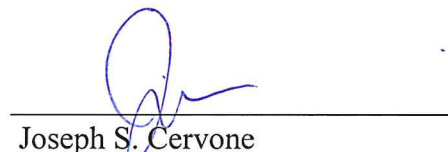
**DATED:** March 14, 2024

I, Lisa A. Sharp, Secretary of the Harding Township Board of Health, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify this to be true copy of a Resolution approved by the Board of Health at a meeting held on March 14, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF HARDING**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa A. Sharp  
Secretary, Board of Health

  
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Joseph S. Cervone  
Chair, Board of Health

**Vote on Resolution:**

	MOTION	FOR APPROVAL	AGAINST APPROVAL	ABSTAIN
Mrs. Chambers, Alt #2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Chipperson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeNave	1st	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Lacz		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. McKittrick	2nd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs. Somers, Alt #1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Cervone		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>