

Proclamation

Substance Abuse Prevention Month October 2025

WHEREAS, the anti-stigma campaign aims to create awareness around drug use and drug-related stigma experienced by individuals who use drugs and help remove the stereotypes associated with individuals who use drugs; and


WHEREAS, stigma is any attitude, belief, or behavior that discriminates against people and often emerges in the form of derogatory language that shames and belittles people; and

WHEREAS, a substance use disorder is a health condition, and people should not be defined by their illness or health condition. Stigmatizing language is inaccurate, hurtful, disempowering, and one of the biggest barriers to accessing treatment; and

WHEREAS, although drug use can disproportionately affect certain groups, it can affect anyone. People who use drugs are our neighbors, co-workers, relatives, and friends. People who use drugs can be doctors, hunters, artists, students, and educators. It is Dunellen's goal to challenge our perceptions and encourage people to start a conversation about stigma; and

WHEREAS, there are many resources available for people to educate themselves about stigma, its devastating effects, and what can be done to help end stigma. As a community, we all have a role to play in addressing the stigma faced by people who use drugs. Stop the stigma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Jason F. Cilento, Mayor of the Borough of Dunellen, New Jersey, with support from the Borough Council, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as Substance Abuse Prevention Month in the Borough of Dunellen and call upon the people of our municipality to join in supporting this observation.



Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen
October 6, 2025