

Hillsborough Township

379 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
Phone (908) 369-4313
Fax (908) 369-6034

News Release

Contact: Mayor Carl Suraci
Deputy Mayor Gloria McCauley
Phone: 908-369-3535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2017

Night of Conversation to be Held on November 16th

Parents and Kids are Invited to Learn and Talk About the Dangers of Drugs and Alcohol at the Hillsborough Municipal Building

Mayor Carl Suraci signed a proclamation declaring November 16th, 2017 as a Night of Conversation at Tuesday's Township Committee Meeting. The proclamation was signed in an effort to address the rising alcohol and drug addiction problem occurring throughout the country.

The Night of Conversation is an alcohol and drug addiction prevention awareness initiative encouraging organizations throughout New Jersey to provide resources and awareness information on alcohol and drug addiction. The law also encourages parents to establish regular conversation habits with their children to prevent addiction.

Opioid abuse is a swiftly growing problem. According to a Trust for America's Health report, deaths from prescription painkiller use have more than quadrupled in the past 15 years, while deaths from heroin have tripled since 2010. In addition, nationally, more than two million Americans misuse prescription drugs, and nearly half a million are addicted to heroin. The Night of Conversation initiative hopes to stem the tide of drug use by arming parents with effective strategies to help them have meaningful conversations with their children on this challenging topic.

"In Somerset County, we see the casualties of drug and alcohol abuse, especially opioid addiction, every day. Current trends in opioid and heroin abuse are unforgiving - the Night of Conversation is designed to interrupt the momentum," stated Michael H. Robertson, Somerset County Prosecutor and Night of Conversation speaker.

“Thank you to all of the sponsors who so tirelessly continue to keep the lines of communication open sharing resources and education to bring awareness to the growing crisis,” commented Deputy Mayor Gloria McCauley, Liaison to the Hillsborough-Millstone Municipal Alliance.

Somerset County YMCA, Hillsborough Township School District, Empower Somerset, the Safe Communities Coalition of Somerset County, Hillsborough Municipal Alliance, and Hillsborough Youth Services Commission have partnered to host a Night of Conversation for parents and youth (grades 7-12) on November 16, 2017 at 7:00pm at the Hillsborough Municipal Building. Registration is encouraged, please visit www.somersetcountyyymca.org/events/noc or call 908-369-0490 for more information and to register.

About the Sponsors:

Empower Somerset - is a non-profit agency dedicated to encouraging prevention with education and resources. Their services reach individuals throughout the lifespan, from preschool to retirement. They customize programs to fit the unique needs of each population and community.

Hillsborough School District - is a comprehensive public school district, committed to quality education with an enrollment of approximately 7,300 students, is a K - 12 district with six elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and one high school (9-12).

Hillsborough-Millstone Municipal Alliance - is a volunteer based organization that envisions having our local community understand that alcoholism and drug addictions are chronic conditions that can be successfully prevented and treated, and to create an environment that promotes and protects the mental, social and physical health of community members.

Hillsborough Youth Services Commission - is a volunteer based organization whose purpose is to encourage, coordinate and integrate services for at-risk youth in the community and to develop new and innovative programs to meet their needs.

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office - is committed to fulfilling the constitutional and statutory mandates as well as: strengthening law enforcement's relations with the public; enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Somerset County; ensuring the rights of crime victims, to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect, are enforced; and, pursuing justice for all.

Safe Coalition of Hunterdon / Somerset - is committed through widespread community collaboration, environmental change, and community education in Hunterdon and Somerset

counties, we will address areas of concern including, but not limited to, reducing Rx drug abuse across the lifespan, underage drinking, tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use.

YMCA - is a community-focused nonprofit aiming to making a meaningful difference in the life of each person who walks through their doors. Their programs and services help individuals and families to grow in spirit, mind and body.

###