

PROCLAMATION

Office of the Mayor Bridgewater, New Jersey

WHEREAS, The Township of Bridgewater is pleased to recognize and observe the month of October as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month in memory of all victims of metastatic breast cancer, but most especially Bridgewater resident Donna M. Karlis, who passed away after a courageous and inspiring battle with metastatic breast cancer in September 2017 at the age of 42; and

WHEREAS, Metastatic breast cancer is very different from early stage breast cancer, in that metastatic breast cancer is advanced stage IV breast cancer and is defined by the spread of cancer cells beyond the breast and nearby lymph nodes to non-adjacent organs such as the lung, liver, bones and brain; and

WHEREAS, On average, more than one in eight women and one in 833 men are diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the United States each year, and over 8,260 women in New Jersey die of metastatic breast cancer annually; and

WHEREAS, Metastatic breast cancer is incurable and patients diagnosed with this type of breast cancer have an average life expectancy of 18 to 36 months; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 42,690 Americans will die from metastatic breast cancer this year, which is the equivalent of 115 women and men dying of this type of breast cancer every day; and

WHEREAS, Currently, less than five percent of breast cancer research in the United States is focused on extending the lives of metastatic breast cancer patients, yet 98% of deaths from breast cancer are metastatic; and

WHEREAS, Donna wished for her friends and family to continue her fight to cure metastatic breast cancer and to provide more representation for those who live with it; and

WHEREAS, The Donna M. Karlis Memorial Fund, a 501(c)(3) New Jersey non-profit organization, was established to raise awareness, education and resources for local MBC patients and for MBC research in memory of Donna M. Karlis; and

WHEREAS, The Team ROAR 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk is an annual event, started in October of 2019, to support the mission of the Donna M. Karlis Memorial Fund, and its proceeds provide support to local MBC patients through the Somerset Health Care Foundation, and funding for MBC research through METAvivor Research and Support.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Matthew C. Moench, Mayor of Bridgewater Township, do hereby proclaim the month of October as

Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month

And urge all the citizens of the Township to take notice of Metastatic Breast Cancer awareness and offer support to those whose lives have been touched and impacted by metastatic breast cancer, particularly Donna M. Karlis and her family and friends, and participate fittingly in the observance.



Matthew C. Moench
Mayor, Township of Bridgewater

DATED: October 2020