

## RESOLUTION 2014 - 168

**WHEREAS**, during the course of the past year the people of Ocean County have been waging battle against the rising epidemic of controlled dangerous substance abuse in or midst- an epidemic in which 2013 saw a 100% increase in deaths caused by overdose in the course of a single year. A significant controlled substance at play in this epidemic is the opiate based substances, both illegal such as heroin and prescription medications such as oxycodone and;

**WHEREAS**, in response to this epidemic Ocean County's head law enforcement official, Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato, Esq. has implemented a program whereby our police officers responding to service calls for possible overdoses will be trained to administer nasal Narcan and;

**WHEREAS**, The Township of Ocean is in full support of Prosecutor Coronato's initiative and;

**WHEREAS**, if officers, deferring to the scope of practice, decided **not** to administer Narcan, these police officers will be deficient in their duty to act as Police Officers. Either branch of this decision tree leads only to sub-standard public service and exposes the Township of Ocean and all municipalities of Ocean County with Police EMT's to the very real possibility of a significant increase in unwarranted liability claims and;

**WHEREAS**, the administration of nasal Narcan in the event of an overdose is currently available to person's without any medical training the most comprehensive, commonsense remedy would be to expand the scope of practice for EMT's to include the administration of nasal Narcan, - of course with appropriate medical oversight as is already provided for in the administration of the epi-pen and;

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that to accomplish such a comprehensive expansion will require time and that responding to the current opiate epidemic in Ocean County is of utmost urgency and immediacy and;

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Herb Conaway, Chairman of the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee has introduced legislation (A-2770) to address the need for comprehensive reform so;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Governing Body of the Township of Ocean, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey respectfully request that, due to the amount of time necessary for legislation to become enacted into law, Ms. Mary O'Dowd Commissioner of the State of New Jersey Department of Health exercise the authority vested in the office of Commissioner to grant a waiver permitting Police Officer EMT's to administer Narcan as part of their scope of practice following appropriate training and with medical oversight.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted to Honorable Chris Christie, Governor; the Honorable Stephen Sweeney, NJ State Senate President, the Honorable Herb Conaway, NJ State Assembly, 9<sup>th</sup> New Jersey State Legislative District, Commissioner O'Dowd, New Jersey Department of Health, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and each municipality in Ocean County.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Diane B. Ambrosio, Clerk of the Township of Ocean, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014.

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Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC  
Township Clerk