

**CITY COUNCIL**

**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**

DATE December 19, 2023

NUMBER 518-2023

**TITLE:**

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING HS&H OUTREACH SERVICES, LLC AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE RESOURCE CENTER. (Sponsored by Council Member Quantavia Hilbert).**

**WHEREAS**, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day takes place each year on the longest night of the year, the winter solstice (usually December 21st). The first day of winter is used to draw awareness to the numbers of unsheltered individuals. The first Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Day was commemorated in 1990.

**WHEREAS**, the winter months impose extreme hardships on inadequately housed, low-income people in the City of Orange; and

**WHEREAS**, the spirit of the holiday season promotes compassion and provides an opportunity to reaffirm and renew the commitment to ending homelessness for all; and

**WHEREAS**, homelessness is not just a local issue, but a national problem that calls for a national response; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control states that people experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of infectious and chronic illness, poor mental health, and substance abuse. Sexual abuse is also a known trauma to occur during homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined epidemics of COVID-19, the affordable housing shortage, the opioid crisis and racism call for creative solutions from all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is recognized on or around the first day of winter by the National Coalition for the Homeless and by more than 100 cities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council have designated December 21, 2023 as National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of poverty and homelessness should be integral features of efforts to build and maintain a strong City and a strong nation; and

**WHEREAS**, investment in publicly affordable housing, can lower the statistics and promote healthier and more compassionate communities that ensure all residents' basic human needs are met; and

**WHEREAS**, by joining together to remember our lost neighbors, we can honor their lives by working to provide and expand effective solutions to homelessness in the City of Orange Township, and build a truly just society for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognizing National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, it is important to recognize and honor organizations that are working to address homelessness in the City of Orange; and

**WHEREAS**, HS&H Outreach Services, LLC ("HS&H") and the Family Assistance Resource Center ("FARC") have made great strides in serving the unsheltered community and providing emergency resources in the City of Orange and greater Essex County area; and

**WHEREAS**, HS&H was founded by Esperanza Jenkins and has a mission is to provide immediate relief to underserved communities within Northern New Jersey. Notably, HS&H has served the senior citizen population in Orange for several years. There is a focus on addressing food, housing, personal care, or healthcare insecurity. By providing immediate low barrier impactful services, HS&H is able to restore dignity and hope to those who need it most. The wrap around services of HS&H provides a human-touch connection to those being served which helps to eliminate stigma or fear; and

**WHEREAS**, FARC was founded by Roger Hinton and provides emergency food, housing referral assistance, clothing, footwear, toiletries, replacement furniture and appliances, to assist fire and natural disaster victims in their recovery. FARC also recognizes and seeks to address the needs of those transitioning from homelessness, our veterans, the elderly, the disabled, and families in need. FARC was conceived in the wake of a 2010 fire that left over one hundred families homeless. Notably, FARC has worked alongside the Office of Emergency Management during the recent fires that have displaced Orange residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Orange Township that December 21, 2023 is hereby recognized as Homeless Persons' Memorial Day and that HS&H Outreach Services, LLC and the Family Assistance Resource Center are hereby honored for their work in the community to combat homelessness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Orange Township hereby encourages the public to attend HS&H Outreach Services, LLC's Gala of Hope on December 21, 2023 at the Newark Public Library at 3:00 pm.

**Adopted: December 19, 2023**

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**Joyce L. Lanier**  
City Clerk

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**Tency A. Eason**  
Council President