



Township of Springfield, Union County, New Jersey

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Recognizing the Founding of METAvivors of NJ

WHEREAS, the the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield hereby recognizes the founding of **META**Avivors of NJ, a Chapter of METAAvivor Research and Support, by Scotch Plains resident **Tami Eagle Bowling** as an active response to stage 4 metastatic breast cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, May 2019 is **National Cancer Research Month** and May 12-19 is **National Women's Health Week**; breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the United States, and second leading cause of death. Every year, approximately 1 in 8 women or 12% are diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2019, an estimated 268,600 American women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and 62,930 women with pre-invasive breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, **41,760 women will die in the United States in 2019 from stage 4 metastatic breast cancer**, equivalent to 115 women a day. They are either among the 3 to 6 percent of women initially diagnosed with "denovo" stage 4, or the 30% who evolve to stage 4 from earlier stages. Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer has no cure. Life expectancy is 18 to 36 months from diagnosis due to the diseased cells spreading to other organs such as the brain, liver, and bones; and

WHEREAS, early detection of this disease is essential, the national **META**Avivor organization educates the public about metastatic breast cancer and lack of funding for stage 4 treatment. They aim to dramatically increase the current percentage of overall breast cancer research dollars from under 5 percent to **30 percent** for the already metastasized patient. The national campaign for this initiative on social media falls under **#DontIgnoreStageIV**; and

WHEREAS, Scotch Plains resident **Tami Eagle Bowling** has raised \$50,000 per year since 2015 for METAAvivor and Breast Cancer Alliance research grants, and widely publicizes the urgent need for metastatic breast cancer treatment in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS Tami is an advocate for metastatic breast cancer research institutions and a mentor to diagnosed patients, she founded the **META**Avivors of NJ Facebook group in April 2019 to centralize metastatic breast cancer information, action and advocacy relevant to New Jersey communities; and

WHEREAS, the pink ribbon is well-known for representing the fight against breast cancer, the **metastatic breast cancer awareness ribbon colors** also include teal and green. The ribbon is designed to highlight the uniqueness of the disease and show its commonality with other stage 4 cancers. Green represents the triumph of spring over winter, life over death, renewal, hope, and immortality. Teal portrays healing and spirituality. The thin pink overlay signifies that the cancer originated in the breast.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Erica DuBois, Mayor, on behalf of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield do hereby proclaim that **META**Avivors of NJ, a chapter of METAAvivor Research and Support, began here in April 2019. Citizens are encouraged to join the national effort towards awareness of metastatic breast cancer during May's National Women's Health and National Cancer Research Month.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Township of Springfield to be affixed, this 28th day of May in the year two thousand nineteen.



Mayor