

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-291

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWNSHP OF BARNEGAT POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BRIGHT HARBOR HEALTHCARE

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJSA 30:4-27.1, et seq. (Screening Law) and NJAC 10:31-1.1 (Screening regulations), it is the policy of this State to provide for a public mental health system that delivers treatment consistent with a person's clinical condition, and that screening services be developed as the public mental health system's entry point in order to provide accessible crisis intervention, evaluation and referral services to persons with mental illness, to offer persons with mental illness clinically appropriate alternatives to inpatient care, and, when necessary, to provide a means for involuntary commitment to treatment; and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of every person involved in civilian-law enforcement interactions, and that many of the negative outcomes that have resulted from such interactions may stem from law enforcement officers responding to situation involving individuals experiencing behavioral health crises; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Law and Safety and the DHS have executed a separate agreement which will provide for funding for this Pilot Program upon presentation of invoices in conformance with this Agreement by the MHSP to DHS; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to improve the outcomes in law enforcement's response to emergency behavioral health crisis calls, to divert individuals in crisis from unnecessary entry into the criminal justice system, and to more efficiently employ the resources of both the PPD and the MHSP as they respond to calls for service, the Parties seek to establish a Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, this MOU is intended to memorialize the relationship and delineate the responsibilities of the Parties in this cooperative joint effort and will be effective from August 1, 2026 to August 1, 2027

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 4th day of August, 2026, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township hereby authorizes the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Township of Barnegat Police Department and Bright Harbor Healthcare, effective August 1, 2026 to August 1, 2027 and will be kept on file at the office of the Township Clerk and may be viewed during normal business hours.

2. The Township authorizes the Mayor, Township Clerk, Township Administrator, Chief of Police, and any other appropriate official to execute the documents necessary to implement the intent of this resolution.

3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Township Clerk to the following:

- (a) Pasquale Pipi, Mayor;
- (b) Martin J. Lisella, Township Administrator;
- (c) Stephanie Marlin, CFO;
- (d) Jason D. Carroll, Chief of Police;
- (e) Captain Andrew Parsley;
- (f) Christopher J. Dasti, Esq., Township Attorney; and
- (g) Meghan Corrigan, Adult Clinical Director of Bright Harbor

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna M. Manno, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at their regular Committee meeting held in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, NJ on the 4th day of August, 2026

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk