

PROCLAMATION HONORING STEPHEN J. PAPENBERG

WHEREAS; having served honorably for thirty-three years (since 1992) as not only a member but also as Chair (since 1995) of the Pennington Borough Board of Health, dedicated to the good health of the residents, businesses, elected officials, and employees of Pennington Borough, Stephen J. Papenberg leaves our community healthier and safer upon his retirement as Chair and as a member of the Board of Health effective December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS; Stephen Papenberg has distinguished himself as a public health professional since 1973 with forty years of public service through his work as: Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the Kearny Health Department (1973-1978); Health Officer for the Borough of Hopatcong (1978-1982); Health Officer for the Matawan Regional Health Department (1986-1988); Health Officer of South Brunswick, Township (1988-2013); and

WHEREAS; Stephen Papenberg also gained invaluable public health-related experience as a specialist in regulatory compliance and quality assurance at Wakefern Food Corporation from 1983-1995; and

WHEREAS; Stephen Papenberg was a Founding Member and Past President of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association and has served on its Executive Committee for thirty-three years (since 1992); served on the Executive Board of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (in 2003); and has served as Past President, a member of the Executive Committee, and a community member of the Greater Mercer Public Health Partnership whose mission is to measurably improve the health of residents of the Greater Mercer County Community; and

WHEREAS; Stephen Papenberg's contributions to the field of local public health practice has been recognized by his peers through numerous honors including: New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association President's Award for duties as Treasurer and Special Projects Officer (2023); the Harry R.H. Nicholas Award for Service in Advancement of Public and Environmental Health in New Jersey from the New Jersey Environmental Health Officers Association (2004); the Christophe Saccenti Award for Outstanding Service to Public Health by a Member of a New Jersey Board of Health (Pennington) from the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (1997); the Partnership in Health Award from the New Jersey Health Officers Association (1999); and the Leadership Award as President of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (1994-1995); and

WHEREAS; as Pennington Borough Board of Health Chair, Stephen Papenberg has brought his extensive experience and knowledge of public health practice to form a continuous bridge during his multi-decade tenure as Chair between the health officers serving Pennington Borough, the Pennington Borough Council, and the Pennington Borough Administrators to help facilitate the full Board's ability to perform its duties and functions to set policies, develop and enforce local ordinances, and administer public health programs to provide for sanitation, disease control, and vital statistics; and

WHEREAS; as Chair of the Pennington Board of Health, Stephen Papenberg provided steady leadership working with our Health Officer and the full Board to navigate our community through the COVID-19 pandemic, the most devastating pandemic the world has known since the 1918 influenza pandemic, providing constant communication and guidance to our residents, elected and appointed officials, employees, and local businesses, through an ever-changing landscape; and

WHEREAS, Stephen Papenberg's dedication to his role as Chair and a member of the Pennington Board of Health, has earned him the respect and deep appreciation of his colleagues, constituents, and officials within Pennington and throughout the State of New Jersey, who will miss his service on the Board of Health.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Pennington, recognize and honor the long and distinguished service and many accomplishments of Stephen J. Papenberg and extend to him the best wishes of a grateful community on this 5th day of January, 2026.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2026

By Order of the Office of the Mayor

James Davy, Mayor