

Village of Bergen Proclamation Recognizing October, 2013 As Anti-Bullying Awareness Month

WHEREAS, *We must safeguard schools and communities for our children, and, through our recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, offer our children an environment that holds promise and security; and*

WHEREAS, *Many organizations, school districts, educators and parents have publicly expressed concern about the bullying of children; and*

WHEREAS, *Each day an estimated 160,000 children refuse to go to school because they dread the physical and verbal aggression of their peers, and the loneliness that comes from being excluded and made the target of rumors and cyber-bullying; many more students attend school in a chronic state of anxiety; and*

WHEREAS, *It is important that we acknowledge and heighten awareness about the serious issues and the negative effects of bullying, including the long-term damage it can cause in our youth as well as the risks of teenage suicide; and*

WHEREAS, *Providing a safe physical and emotional environment is a significant goal and a person responsibility of each individual; and*

WHEREAS, *It is time to “Stand UP for Character – DOWN to Bullying!”; now, therefore be it*

PROCLAIMED, *that I, Mayor Ralph Marsocci do hereby designate the month of October 2013 as Anti-Bullying Awareness Month in **The Village of Bergen** as a symbol of our commitment to the year-round struggle against bullying.*