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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR ARMSTEAD LAUNCHES LINDEN OPIOID ERADICATION INITIATIVE AND "SAFE HAVEN" KICKOFF

LINDEN, NEW JERSEY — July 16, 2026 — Mayor Derek Armstead today announced the launch of the Linden Opioid Eradication and Abatement Initiative, a proactive, citywide effort to address substance use, alcohol misuse, and mental health challenges through education, prevention, and localized support.

To launch the initiative, Mayor Armstead invites residents, healthcare professionals, faith leaders, and local advocates to the Safe Haven Community Kickoff on Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the First Baptist Church of Linden, located at 929 Dill Avenue. This free, collaborative forum will connect attendees with life-saving resources and build vital community partnerships.

"Addressing the opioid crisis and mental health challenges requires a compassionate and aggressive community response," said Mayor Armstead. "This initiative is about saving lives, erasing the stigma of addiction, and ensuring every resident has access to the resources they need to heal. I urge our neighbors and leaders to join us at the Safe Haven Kickoff so we can build a healthier, safer Linden together."

The new initiative builds upon the city's established Mayor's Wellness Campaign and reinforces Linden's official "Stigma-Free" designation, established by city resolution in Spring 2026. This designation ensures those facing mental health and substance use disorders can seek help with dignity and without judgment. In alignment with this mission, Linden proudly champions the green ribbon—the international symbol for mental health awareness—to show visible support for individuals in recovery.

The Safe Haven Community Kickoff is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at 908-474-8493 or visit the official City of Linden website.

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