**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-10.9**

**OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

 **OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMINGDALE**

**WHEREAS,** on February 26, 2004, David Heim, a thirteen-year-old boy was tragically killed by a drunk driver in Sussex County; and

**WHEREAS**, the drunk driver who hit David was convicted solely of drunk driving and served only thirty days in jail, the maximum term of imprisonment for a first offense under the State's Drunk Driving Law; and

**WHEREAS**, another tragic death occurred on May 5, 2012 when Ralph Politi, Jr., an East Hanover Township community activist and business owner, was killed by a drunk driver who swerved out of her lane and struck him as he stood by his parked pickup truck; and

**WHEREAS**, in the case of Ralph Politi, the drunk driver was recently acquitted of first-degree aggravated manslaughter and second-degree vehicular homicide, and instead received a two-year suspension of her driver's license, and was ordered to perform thirty days of community service and pay $733 in fines and penalties; and

**WHEREAS,** as a result of the untimely deaths of both David Heim and Ralph Politi, and the penalty limitations imposed by current law, members of both sides of the aisle have crafted Assembly, No. 3686, which establishes the crime of strict liability vehicular homicide and the conditions under which a defendant may be charged with such a violation; and

**WHEREAS**, under Assembly, No. 3686, strict liability vehicular homicide would be a third-degree crime, but neither the presumption of non-imprisonment that normally applies to first-time offenders convicted of third-degree crimes, nor the causal requirements of N.J.S.A. 2C:2-3, would apply; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly, No. 3686 would also amend various sections of statutory law to strengthen penalties for vehicular homicide caused by drunk or drugged drivers; and

**WHEREAS,** Assembly, No. 3686 would be known as "Ralph and David's Law" in honor of Ralph Politi and David Heim; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governing Body of the Borough of Bloomingdale applauds the bi-partisan efforts of members of the General Assembly in strengthening the penalty provisions for operating a vehicle or vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol, closing any loopholes that would set a violator free.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Bloomingdale in the County of Passaic and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The governing body endorses and supports the bi-partisan efforts of the General Assembly in the introduction of Assembly, No. 3686, which establishes the third-degree crime of strict liability vehicular homicide, amends various sections of statutory law, and designates Assembly, No. 3686 as "Ralph and David's Law."
2. The Governing Body calls upon all mayors and governing bodies in the other thirty-eight Passaic County municipalities to approve and adopt resolutions in support of Assembly, No. 3686.

That certified copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the sponsors of Assembly, No. 3686; namely Assemblymen John F. McKeon and Anthony M. Bucco, Assemblywomen Mila M. Jasey, Nancy F. Munoz and Valerie Vainieri Huttle, Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, members of the 39th Legislative District, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and Governing Bodies of Passaic County.

**Record of Council Vote on Passage**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Councilman | aye | nay | Abstain | Absent | Councilman | aye | nay | Abstain | Absent |
| Sondermeyer |  |  |  | X | Dellaripa | X |  |  |  |
| D’Amato | X |  |  |  | Costa | X |  |  |  |
| Hudson | X |  |  |  | Yazdi | X |  |  |  |

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the

Borough of Bloomingdale at an Official Meeting held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

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Jane McCarthy, R.M.C.

Municipal Clerk, Borough of Bloomingdale