

*P*ROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations; and

WHEREAS, since 1993, over 2700 local CERT programs have been established nationwide with over 600,000 individuals selflessly volunteering their time; and

WHEREAS, the Watchung CERT Team was established in 2013 in response to the AAR (After Action Review) held as a result of Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, CERT offers a consistent approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks; and

WHEREAS, Municipal CERT team members must complete certification training and continue to meet monthly to continue education, perform realistic exercises, and to be kept up-to-date on many of the newly adopted County mandates; and

WHEREAS, CERT members provide critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, have the ability to organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site, and also volunteer for local non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Watchung CERT Team has grown not only within our Borough but shared their experience and pooled resources with neighboring towns such as Warren Township, Green Brook Township and the Borough of Bound Brook.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Stephen K. Pote, do hereby proclaim the week of June 4th through June 9th, 2018 as

"CERT WEEK"

in the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, and on behalf of the Governing Body, and thank our CERT Team members for their dedication and service to our Community, not only during our times of need but every day.

Stephen K. Pote

Date: June 7, 2018

Stephen K. Pote, Mayor