

# Office of the Mayor

TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD, NJ



# Proclamation

## LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the Township of Bloomfield, New Jersey stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

**WHEREAS**, NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities has risen to the moment to support afterschool professionals serving youth in addressing the social and academic needs as they recover from the pandemic. Afterschool programs continue to provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to re-engage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 24, 2024, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

**WHEREAS**, the township of Bloomfield, New Jersey is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED GAMBLE**, Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield, along with the members of the Township Council do hereby proclaim October 24, 2024 as "*Lights On Afterschool Day*;" The Mayor and Township Council enthusiastically endorses Lights On Afterschool and commits our state to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

MAYOR  
BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY