

September 17, 2009

**FREEHOLDERS PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER  
AS "OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" IN ESSEX COUNTY**



The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders proclaimed September as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Essex County during its September 16, 2009, meeting at the Hall of Records. Pictured above are (from left to right): Freeholder D. Bilal Beasley, Ami Vaidya, MD, Freeholder Carol Y. Clark, Freeholder Rufus I. Johnson, Dr. Darlene G. Gibbon, MD, Freeholder President Blonnie R. Watson and Freeholder Patricia Sebold – (Photo by Glen Frieson)

(Newark, NJ) – During a brief ceremony held during their September 16, 2009, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a Resolution proclaiming September as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" in Essex County.

The Board adopted the Resolution in order to draw attention to ovarian cancer, to educate the public about it, to encourage early detection, and to promote and support research to find a cure. The disease, often called the "silent killer" because its symptoms are often vague or subtle, kills more than 16,000 women a year; it is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths among women and the leading cause of gynecologic cancer deaths in the United States. If detected in its early stages, survival rates from ovarian cancer can be as high as 90-95%, whereas the 5-year survival rate for the disease is only 28%, due to the fact that detection of the disease is so difficult.

"By proclaiming September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month", said Freeholder President Blonnie Watson, "we hope to make women more aware of the disease so they will be tested, especially since early detection is critical to their chances for survival."

The framed Resolution was presented to Darlene G. Gibbon, MD, and Ami Vaidya, MD, representatives of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey and UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Gibbon is the Clinical Director of Gynecologic Oncology at The Cancer Institute and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UMDNJ. Dr. Vaidya is a gynecologic oncologist at The Cancer Institute and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at UMDNJ. Doctors Gibbon and Vaidya spoke about the importance of increasing awareness of the disease and encouraged women to seek treatment at The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the state's first and only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, where the latest medicines and treatment options and state-of-the-art cancer care are available, and where cutting edge cancer research is underway. The Cancer Institute is located at 195 Little Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ – (732)235-2465.

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**For additional information, please contact:  
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