



Proclamation No. 21-0992
Recognizing National Suicide Prevention Week, September 5 - 11 and
the month of September as Suicide Prevention Month

WHEREAS; According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults, the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 in the US, and the 4th leading cause of death for ages 35-54; and

WHEREAS; more than 48,000 people died by suicide across the United States in 2020, with an average of 132 suicides completed daily; and

WHEREAS; 1,312 Coloradans died by suicide in 2020, including 151 people in Denver, with 79 Denverites having died from this terrible epidemic as of Aug. 12 of this year; and

WHEREAS; each and every suicide directly impacts a minimum of 100 additional people, including family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and community members; and

WHEREAS; local and national partners serve on the front lines of a war that many still refuse to discuss, as stigma regarding suicide and mental health issues is far too prevalent; and

WHEREAS; September is known globally as “Suicide Prevention Month”, the National Suicide Prevention + Action Month Proclamation was created by Chicago-based Hope for The Day to raise the visibility of the mental health resources and suicide prevention services available in communities nationwide, the goal being to magnify the conversation about the importance of mental health resources and the impact of suicide to help destigmatize the conversation and help connect people with the support they need; and

WHEREAS; The City and County of Denver is teaming up with schools from across the metro area and other community partners to provide a platform for teens and young adults to speak honestly and frankly about mental health and wellness. The *We Got This Youth Summit* will bring 400 Denver youth together, October 25, on the University of Denver campus, to raise awareness of the stressors teens are facing today, explore a variety of coping mechanisms, advocate for accessible mental health services, and elevate the discussion within the community; and

WHEREAS; Those in severe crisis can call 9-1-1; Colorado Crisis Services, at 844-943-8255; and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, at 800-273-8255 for immediate assistance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The City Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes the week of Sept. 5-12 as National Suicide Prevention Week, and the entire month of September as Suicide Prevention Month, and encourages all residents to take the time to understand the importance of mental health education and recognize that taking care of others includes taking care of our own mental health as well; and

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Rick Padilla, Denver Department of Public Health and Environment; Denver’s own Second Wind Fund; and Hope For The Day.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 30, 2021

PRESIDENT