

**PROCLAMATION FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH – MAY 2020**

**WHEREAS**, Mental health is important for our individual well-being and vitality, as well as that of our families, communities and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, At least 8.4 million Americans provide care to an adult with an emotional or mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, 17% of youth (6-17 years) experience a mental health disorder that, if untreated, can lead to school failure, physical illness, substance use, jail and even suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, May 7 has been designated the National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, one in eight of all visits to U.S. emergency departments are related to mental health and substance use disorders. Stigma and stereotypes associated with mental illnesses often keep people from seeking treatment that could improve their quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental illness is a biologically based brain disorder that cannot be overcome through “will power” and is not related to a defect in a person’s “character” or intelligence; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental health recovery is a journey of healing and transformation, enabling people with a mental illness to live in a community of his or her choice while striving to achieve his or her full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental health recovery not only benefits individuals with mental health disorders by focusing on their abilities to live, work, learn and fully participate and contribute to our society, but also enriches the culture of our community life; and

**WHEREAS**, The **Oakland Community Health Network**, and its service provider agencies, are committed to inspiring hope, empowering people, and strengthening communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the **Oakland Community Health Network and the City Council of the City of Troy**, hereby recognizes **May 2020 as Mental Health Month**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That we call upon our citizens, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illness, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses to promote recovery.

**Presented this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.**