

**PROCLAMATION
TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 2021 AS
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH
IN THE CITY OF TROY**

WHEREAS; September is known as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding suicide prevention resources available in our community. The simple goal is to learn how to help those around us and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

WHEREAS; World Suicide Prevention Day is observed each year on September 10; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background. According to the CDC, each year more than 48,000 people die by suicide; and

WHEREAS; In May 2020, during the COVID-19, hospital visits for suspected suicide attempts increased among adolescents aged 12-17 years, especially girls; and

WHEREAS; Local organizations like Suicide Prevention Services and national organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline work to help individuals in crisis and provide resources to shed light on the battles of suicide and mental illness which often remain too taboo to discuss; and

WHEREAS; The City of Troy is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly state and place our full support behind local educators, mental health professionals, athletic coaches, scout leaders, police officers, and parents, as partners in supporting our community in simply being available to one another; and

WHEREAS, All members of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles everyone needs the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles; and

WHEREAS, Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. Often feelings of shame and stigma prevent them from talking openly; and

WHEREAS, We encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council hereby proclaims the month of September 2021, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Troy, and encourages all residents to support one another as partners to support our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Oakland Community Health Network's commitment to being a Zero Suicide organization and cultivating a network of providers who are engaged in the Zero Suicide philosophy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage everyone to practice kindness and acceptance for one another as we live and work together in the City of Troy.

Presented this 13th Day of September 2021.