

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill, continues to address the rising demand for mental health and substance use services; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance use challenges can lead to homelessness, incarceration, and emergency room visits, which are more intrusive and costly for communities than earlier interventions and connections to behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, Chapel Hill has recognized the need for additional resources for people experiencing mental health crises and identified co-responders, peer support professionals, and mobile crisis teams as a critical, effective practice; and

WHEREAS, the Chapel Hill Police Department's Crisis Unit was established in 1973 as one of the earliest examples of law enforcement and human services professionals working together, responding collaboratively to people in crisis by providing the right intervention at the right time to avoid arrests, emergency room visits, and repeat 911 calls by connecting to appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, the Crisis Unit's addition of a Peer Support Specialist who shares their lived experience with community members experiencing mental health, substance use, homelessness, or barriers accessing services due to involvement in the criminal justice system is vital in supporting community members who are struggling with the same challenges; and

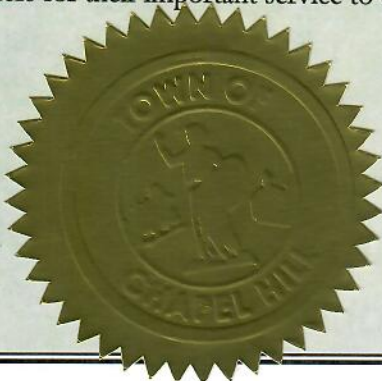
WHEREAS, the Crisis Unit is partnering with Orange County on a two-year pilot program for a Mobile Crisis Team; a four-person team consisting of a clinician embedded in the 911 call center, a crisis counselor, a community paramedic, and a peer support specialist, all of whom would respond to lower-risk emergency calls to 911 related to addiction, mental health crisis and/or community members living unsheltered and do not require a police response; and

WHEREAS, today, the Crisis Unit has eight co-responder positions and numerous partnerships with mental health resources in Chapel Hill, Orange County, and the greater Triangle area.

NOW, THEREFORE we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim the week of September 18th as

National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week

in Chapel Hill and urge everyone to recognize and thank our Crisis Unit team members and other community partners for their important service to our community.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE..

Dum Hennis