

Town of Chapel Hill

Proclamation

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in over 44,000 suicides each year according to the Centers for Disease Control; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1.1 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Public Health reports that North Carolina experienced 1,406 deaths by suicide in 2017; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention have established that suicide is a preventable public health problem and envision a world without suicide; and

WHEREAS, these organizations are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, The Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby designate September 9 through September 15 as

“National Suicide Prevention Week”

in the Town of Chapel Hill and urge all citizens to become aware of ways they can help prevent suicide and to advocate for increased access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL
OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL ON THIS
THE FIFTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE
YEAR TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN.



Sam Hemminger