

Proclamation

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 mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill is committed to addressing the rising demand for mental health and substance use 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 more than 50 years ago as one of the earliest examples of law enforcement and human services professionals working together, responding collaboratively to connect people to appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, the Crisis Unit is partnering with Orange County on a two-year pilot program called the Crisis Assistance, Response, and Engagement (CARE) 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 respond to lower-risk 911 calls related to addiction, mental health crisis and/or community members living unsheltered and do not require a police response; and

WHEREAS, today, thirteen mental professionals' staff the Crisis Unit which has numerous partnerships with mental health resources in Chapel Hill, Orange County, and the greater Triangle area.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of their service to our community, we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim the week of September 15th to be

Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week

in Chapel Hill and urge everyone to recognize, honor, and give thanks to these professionals for the great work they do to serve community members in need each and every day.



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Allen", is written over the bottom right portion of the proclamation text.