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## PETITION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To the Honorable Town Council of the Town of Bristol: The undersigned hereby respectfully requested of your Honorable Body that:

We would like to provide a public service announcement about our upcoming Suicide Prevention project.

Suicide is a public health crisis. In Rhode Island, there is an average of one suicide every three days or 120 per year. Although Rhode Island's rate is below the national rate, 10.3 and 14 per 100,000, respectively, suicide rates are rising for both. Suicide is not a topic most people want to talk about, so raising awareness about the problem is paramount to preventing suicide. Once Rhode Islanders become aware of and accept that it can affect anyone, more often than not we can provide education about how to recognize signs of potential suicide, where to get help and the multiple ways to prevent suicide.

A ribbon installation, much like a flag installation for the military, is a unique and approachable way of raising awareness. For a military flag installation, 660 flags are installed to represent 660 Veterans who die by suicide every month. We are translating this powerful visual to illustrate the impact of suicide in the civilian sector by creating a teal and purple ribbon installation (colors used to raise awareness about suicide prevention).

The ribbon installation will be erected at a site near the Recreation Center on May 9th at 5:00. It will involve a small ceremony which the Council, Representative Susan Donovan, who awarded the Bristol Health Equity Zone Suicide Prevention group a legislative grant for this project, and the public are invited to attend. Following the ceremony everyone will be invited to install a ribbon either for someone they know who was lost to suicide or to support the efforts to bring awareness to suicide prevention. From Bristol, this installation will travel the state monthly through various Health Equity Zones, so many people in the state will have a chance to visually see the impact of suicide in Rhode Island. The installation will have a sign to provide information about suicide, numbers to call for help and a QR code for resources. Our goal is to raise awareness and provide education to the public with the hope that we can reduce suicide in Rhode Island.

*Please ensure that your petition is submitted by 4:00 PM, two (2) Wednesdays before the Town Council meeting scheduled for April 16, 2025 in order to be included on the docket. According to Council policy, petitions cannot be addressed unless recommendations, if needed, from the relevant departments are received before the Council meeting*

**SIGNATURE** *E Spence*

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