

Office of the City Commission

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the month of September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 Americans died by suicide in 2023. In Florida, a person dies by suicide every two hours on average. Suicides in Florida far outnumber homicides; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a national epidemic costing the lives of 6,000 Veterans each year and is a leading cause of death for first responders. Firearms are the leading method of suicide in Florida and the most lethal method. Access to a gun triples the risk of death; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Hospital Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have declared a national emergency in child mental health; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for children, adolescents, and young adults age 10 to 24 years; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to recognize the signs of depression that may lead to thoughts of suicide including: speaking about wanting to die, feelings of isolation or hopelessness, increased use of drugs or alcohol, and severe mood swings; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to recognize the best methods to prevent suicide when a person is in crisis: ask if the person is thinking of taking their life; keep them safe and remove their access to lethal means such as poisons, prescription drugs, and firearms; get them professional help. In Florida, dial 988 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1- 800-273-8255 or text 741741; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Broward County has provided significant leadership in suicide prevention through community education and creation of their *Lock It Up!* Gun Safety Program; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has provided significant leadership in suicide prevention through community education and programming.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ROSS, Mayor of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, designate the month of September as **Suicide Prevention Month** and enthusiastically supports the mission of *Lock It Up!*, and the League of Women Voters of Broward County Gun Safety Committee, as well as the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, by encouraging safe storage of firearms and removal of other lethal means to prevent suicide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great Seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 17th day of September 2024.

GREG ROSS

Mayor, City of Cooper City