



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Fort Collins, along with the State of Colorado, and the USA, have continued to address the issue of mental illness and substance use; and

WHEREAS, mental illness, substance addiction, and co-occurring conditions often lead to homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests as well as expensive and less effective jail housing, broken families, suicide, assaults, and the many issues created by mental illness, substance use are community problems; and

WHEREAS, many communities, towns, cities, counties and states have realized the need for additional resources to address these issues and specifically when individual persons are experiencing crisis situations, including those in the City of Fort Collins, have identified the promising emerging practice and effective program called Co-Response; and

WHEREAS, co-response is defined as pairing a crisis-trained mental health professional with a first responder, who respond as a team to collaboratively intervene in varying levels of crisis with the goal of diverting individuals from arrest and jail, diverting individuals from emergency department visits, and connecting those individuals in crisis with necessary and effective resources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins operates multiple Co-Responder units comprised of specially trained first responders from Fort Collins Police Services and mental health professionals from UC Health, comprise the Mental Health Response Team (MHRT); and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeni Arndt, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the week of September 15 - September 21, as

NATIONAL CO-RESPONDER AND CRISIS RESPONDER WEEK

to express our appreciation and gratitude for all co-responders and crisis mental health professionals working in the City of Fort Collins.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of September, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk