



## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, this measure recognizes May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Fort Collins. We come together to raise awareness of mental health, promote resources and education, and advocate for mental health and well-being for everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, 46 percent of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition sometime in their life, and half of those people will develop conditions by the age of 14; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado ranks 37th out of 51 states with a higher prevalence of mental health issues and lower rates of access to care for adults and youth; and

**WHEREAS**, almost 60,000 Larimer County residents reported poor mental health in the past year and 47,000 residents did not access needed behavioral health care in the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, 42 percent of Larimer County high school students felt sad or hopeless that they stopped participating in activities, 46 percent felt their stress level was not manageable, and 20 percent seriously considered suicide in the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, barriers to behavioral health care in Larimer County are identified as the cost of care, timely access to providers in their community, stigma around seeking help, and lack of insurance coverage for services; and

**WHEREAS**, access to necessary medication, appropriate treatment, care coordination, and responsive peer support helps prevent individuals from populating emergency rooms and jails which are often the default locations for someone with acute mental health and substance use needs; and

**WHEREAS**, creating a community where everyone feels comfortable reaching out for the support they deserve is crucial to ending the stigma around mental health.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Emily Francis, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024, as

### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 7th day of May, 2024.

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Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

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Interim City Clerk