



Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, or background; and

WHEREAS, over 48,000 deaths annually are attributed to suicide; with suicide rates in Colorado ranking 6th nationally, and 55 lives lost to suicide in Weld County during 2020; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important protective factors from suicide is having a trusted person to turn to when feeling isolated or hopeless; a person who will not judge, dismiss, or try to fix the problem, but instead encourage individuals to be open about their feelings and tell their stories; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention starts with actively challenging stigma around mental health and building skills that help us approach the topic of suicide without shame or judgment, so we can save lives; and

WHEREAS, because of the collaborative prevention and education efforts of North Range, Suicide Education and Support Services (SESS), Imagine Zero of Weld County, numerous survivors, and community partners, hope exists in Greeley, and

WHEREAS, North Range Behavioral Health's Suicide Education and Support Services (SESS) program supports those who have lost someone to suicide and provides education to Greeley residents that help build critical suicide prevention skills; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month with the goal of promoting awareness surrounding suicide prevention resources and support available to us and our community; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all residents to learn how to talk about mental health; research suicide prevention resources available nationally and throughout Weld County; check in on the wellbeing of your family, friends, and neighbors; and share genuine appreciation for the people in your life by any gesture you deem appropriate.

NOW THEREFORE, John Gates, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Greeley, do hereby proclaim September 2022 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Greeley and call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of behavioral health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Greeley, Colorado, this 6th day of September 2022.

John Gates
Mayor