## Proclamation

## Honoring the Observance of "We Are Hope" Week in Henderson County Public Schools' Aliddle & High Schools February 27th - March 3rd, 2023

WHEREAS, substance and alcohol abuse negatively affects many areas of the brain, the liver, the heart, and other body parts and can cause adverse behavioral, psychological, and social consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, there were more than 63,600 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2016, and the drug overdose death rate has more than tripled from 1999 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, substance and alcohol abuse continues to occur among children and youth in our society: in 2017, 12.1 percent of high school students in North Carolina smoked cigarettes, 44.1 percent used an electronic vape product, 26.5 percent drank alcohol, 36.5 percent used marijuana, 5.3 percent used cocaine, and 15 percent took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance; and

WHEREAS, student leaders in Henderson County Public Schools', six high schools and four middle schools, have joined with local Henderson County Hope Coalition in educating their peers on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drug use and abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** students at Apple Valley Middle, Flat Rock Middle, Hendersonville Middle, Rugby Middle, East Henderson High, Henderson County Early College High, Hendersonville High, North Henderson High, and West Henderson High are pledging to be and remain substance-free.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** I, Barbara G. Volk, Mayor of the City of Hendersonville, by virtue of the authority vested in me proclaim that February 27th-March 3rd, be observed in Henderson County Public Schools', middle and high schools as "We Are Hope" substance abuse awareness week.

Proclaimed this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2023.

Seal

Attest:

Barbara G. Volk, Mayor City of Hendersonville

Jill Murray, City Clerk