



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5928
August 31, 2021
Consent Agenda

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5928: National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation No. 280	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Mayor Wong proclaims September 2021 National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Mercer Island.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Youth and Family Services
STAFF:	Alison Spietz, Chief of Administration Tambi Cork, YFS Administrator
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 280
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

SUMMARY

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is celebrated in the U.S. each September to promote awareness of suicide prevention resources available to individuals and communities. In addition to raising awareness, this month plays an important role in providing information to ensure that individuals, friends, and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and seek help.

The impacts of mental health distress and disorders are apparent in our community, and Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (MIYFS) encourages all community members to educate themselves regarding signs and symptoms of distress and what to do if they or someone they know is in crisis. To support community awareness and reduce stigma about interventions, suicide prevention trainings are held in November and April each year, as a collaborative effort of MIYFS school-based counselors and Mercer Island School District staff and supported by the University of Washington Forefront Suicide Prevention team. Additionally, the MIYFS Healthy Youth Initiative offers community Mental Health First Aid Trainings in partnership with Jewish Family Services; updated dates and times can be found at www.mihealthyyouth.com.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or background. Anyone experiencing suicidal thoughts should seek assistance. MIYFS outpatient and school-based counselors provide mental health treatment and substance abuse intervention and referral. We encourage Mercer Island residents concerned about suicide and seeking non-emergency services or information to connect with the Youth and Family Services Department confidential Intake Line at 206-275-7567. If you or someone you know is in a mental health emergency, call 911 immediately or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Mayor Wong proclaims September 2021 National Suicide Prevention Month in Mercer Island.