

PROCLAMATION

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, MAY 2024

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, one in five adults and one in five adolescents in the United States live with a mental illness; and

WHEREAS, one in twenty adults experience serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the rate of unemployment is higher among U.S. adults who have mental illness (7.4%) compared to those who do not (4.6%); and

WHEREAS, high school students with significant symptoms of depression are more than twice as likely to drop out compared to their peers; and

WHEREAS, 21.1% of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. have a serious mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24 in the U.S.; and

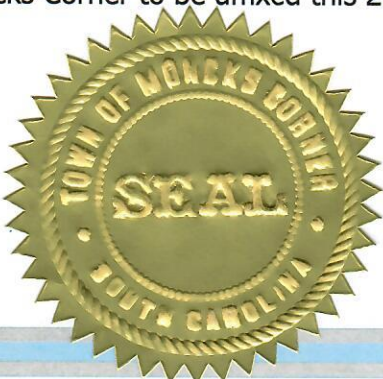
WHEREAS, suicide is the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, 46% of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Community Mental Health Center, a division of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, and its 85 employees provides comprehensive mental and behavioral health care to more than 3,000 Berkeley County Citizens annually. We believe that every Moncks Corner and Berkeley County resident can make a difference in bringing awareness to those caring for or living with mental illness. For too long, mental, and behavioral health illnesses were silenced and misunderstood. This proclamation brings forth valuable information in an effort to reduce stigma and give a voice to our fellow citizens who need our support.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr., and Members of Town Council of the Town of Moncks Corner, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the Town of Moncks Corner. As the Mayor, I also call upon all Town of Moncks Corner citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Moncks Corner to be affixed this 21st day of May, 2024.




Thomas J. Hamilton, Jr., Mayor