



PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL CO-RESPONDER AND CRISIS RESPONDER WEEK

WHEREAS, The Town of Pineville, North Carolina has continued to address the rising demand for mental health and substance use services; and

WHEREAS, mental health and substance use challenges can lead to homelessness, incarceration, and emergency room visits, which are more intrusive and costly for communities than earlier interventions and connections to behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Pineville, North Carolina has recognized the need for additional resources for individuals experiencing mental health crises and identified co-responders as an emerging, effective practice; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Pineville's Co-Responder Program was established in 2025 to embed a mental health clinician with law enforcement to respond collaboratively to individuals in crisis, provide the right intervention at the right time to avoid arrests, emergency room visits, and repeat 911 calls by connecting to appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, our new Co-Responder position has saved the Town \$184,000 across multiple agencies and departments in its first year of implementation;

THEREFORE, I, Amelia Stinson-Wesley, the Mayor of the Town of Pineville, proclaim the week of September 13 through September 19th, as "**National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week**" in the Town of Pineville, North Carolina, and further extend appreciation to our Co-Responder, Allison Pastirik, for the vital services she performs and her exemplary dedication to the Pineville community.

Mayor Amelia Stinson-Wesley