

**Proclamation:
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the Town of Ponder 2022**

WHEREAS addressing the prevention of suicide needs of children, youth, and adults today is fundamental to the future of the Town of Ponder; and

WHEREAS the citizens of the Town of Ponder value their overall health and life and that of their families and fellow citizens and are proud to support observances such as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 10-19, the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 20-34 and the 4th leading cause of death for ages 35-44 and 1/3 of all suicide deaths were ages 55 and older; and

WHEREAS there is an average of 130 suicide deaths per day in the US; and

WHEREAS 10% of adults experience suicidal thoughts in the US; and

WHEREAS nearly 1 and 5 Texas high school students reported seriously thinking about suicide and 15% making a plan and 10% making an attempt; and

WHEREAS the need for comprehensive, coordinated mental health and suicide prevention services for individuals and families places upon our community is a critical responsibility; and

WHEREAS there is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use, to better handle challenges, and protect their overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS each citizen, local business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, and faith-based organization shares the weight of suicide concerns and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness, recovery, and support prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS the Denton County Behavioral Health Leadership Team, Denton County MHMR Center, Denton County Zero Suicide Task Force, and Denton County Suicide Prevention Coalition are effectively addressing the mental health and suicide prevention needs of children, youth, adults, and families in our community; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate that a month should be set apart each year for the direction of our thoughts toward suicide prevention education and the support of treatment and recovery; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, I, Matthew Poole, Mayor of the Town of Ponder, do hereby proclaim:

September 2022 as *Suicide Prevention Awareness Month* and I call upon our citizens and all agencies and organizations interested in helping to prevent suicide to unite this month in the observance of such exercises as will commit the people of Denton to increasing awareness and understanding of suicide, the steps our citizens can take to help prevent suicide, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people experiencing suicidal thoughts.