

Proclamation

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2026 AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide remains a significant public health concern that affects individuals, families, schools, workplaces, and communities across our nation and throughout Florida; and

WHEREAS, every conversation has the power to change a life, and increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and encouraging people to seek help are essential to preventing suicide and promoting mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, the compassionate and highly trained Specialists at 211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast responded to more than **125,000** requests for help across Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties, including more than **50,000** individuals seeking help for mental health or substance use challenges, and more than **6,000** for suicide-related crises; and

WHEREAS, many people in our community continue to face challenges including anxiety, depression, isolation, financial hardship, housing instability, and other challenges that can impact emotional well-being and increase the need for timely support; and

WHEREAS, beyond responding to moments of crisis, 211 connects individuals and families to critical community resources including mental health care, food assistance, housing support, healthcare, child development services, special needs resources, services for veterans, support for older adults and caregivers, and many other programs that strengthen lives and build resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, 211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast operates the 211 HelpLine and serves as the region's provider for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, offering free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone, text, and online chat, ensuring that no one has to face a crisis alone; and

WHEREAS, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is an opportunity for all residents to learn the warning signs of suicide, check in on friends, family, neighbors and coworkers, encourage help-seeking, and remind every person that hope and help are always available;

NOW, THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, I, JOHNPAUL O'CONNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, DECLARE AND RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER 2026 AS;

“SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH”

recognize the life-saving work of 211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast and encourage all residents to remember that suicide prevention is everyone's responsibility and that we can all help build a community where every person knows they are valued, where conversations about mental health are met with empathy, and where everyone knows that help and hope are only three digits away.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Westlake, Florida to be affixed this 1st day of September 2026.

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC
City Clerk