

CITY OF WESTWOOD PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding each of the Suicide Prevention resources available to us and our community. The simple goal is to learn how to help those around us and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and,

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the US, and the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-24; and

WHEREAS, Many people who struggle with thoughts of suicide have not received effective behavioral health services for many reasons, including the difficulty of accessing services, the stigma of behavioral health treatment and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide; and;

WHEREAS, every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles we all need the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors over the next few days and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer.,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David E. Waters, Mayor of Westwood, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2023, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Westwood, Kansas, and

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have affixed the Official Seal of Westwood.

David E. Waters, Mayor

Abby Schneweis, City Clerk