

Metropolitan Government of Nashville
and Davidson County



Office of the Mayor
**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, suicide is a tremendous form of suffering and one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1,200 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and,

WHEREAS, more than three lives a day are lost to suicide in Tennessee, which means we lose 24 Tennesseans each week and 100 people per month, devastating an estimated 135 people left behind by each death; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in Tennessee, the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages 10-24, the 5th leading cause of death for adults ages 35-44, the 6th leading cause of death for adults ages 45-54; and,

WHEREAS, public awareness is key to preventing further suffering and loss of life, and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through education and treatment; and,

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and,

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and,

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and,

WHEREAS, everyone can play a role in suicide prevention by learning to identify the risks and warning signs, decreasing the stigma as a means to promote help-seeking by talking about suicide using safe messaging, and sharing the available resources; and,

WHEREAS, we encourage all Tennesseans to take the time to check on the well-being of their family, and friends, and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug may go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer; and,

NOW, THEREFORE I, Freddie O'Connell, 10th Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, do hereby proclaim September 2024 Suicide Prevention Month in Nashville, Tennessee, and urge all citizens to raise awareness and compassion around all people affected by this tragedy.

*I have hereunto set my hand on
this 26th day of August 2024*


Freddie O'Connell
Mayor

