

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER, 2021 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which directs the community's attention to this public health epidemic which destroys lives, whole families and sometimes entire communities; and,

WHEREAS, suicide rates on the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee were increasing in the first half of 2021, according to our Medical Examiner's Office; and,

WHEREAS, there were nearly two and a half times as many suicides (47,511) in the United States as there were homicides (19,141); and,

WHEREAS, for every completed suicide in 2019, there were 29.05 attempts at suicide; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for those between 10 and 34-years-old; and the fourth leading cause for those between 35 and 54-years-old; and, in 2019, the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population of all suicide deaths in Indian River County was 16.5 compared to Florida at 14.5; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the only type of death that is 100% preventable; and by offering the public education, data, support, and services, we as a community have taken a step toward preventing another suicide by our residents; and,

WHEREAS, we are honored to be part of the healing process, raising awareness for and support of those affected by suicide by offering supporting services which address mental health illnesses and drug and alcohol addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA that September, 2021, be designated as **SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the County of Indian River, Florida and the Board asks all residents to learn how they may help, because suicide prevention is everyone's business.

Adopted this 14th day of September, 2021.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

Joseph Earman

Laura Moss