

PROCLAMATION

DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 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 continue to be an issue according to our Medical Examiner's Office, with 136 suicide deaths in 2023; and

Whereas, in 2022 there were more than two times as many suicides (49,476) in the United States as there were homicides (21,196), and for every death by suicide, there were 32 attempts; and

Whereas, according to Florida Health Charts, in 2022 the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population of suicide deaths in Indian River County was 18.4 compared to Florida at 14.1; and

Whereas, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-34 and the fourth leading cause for ages 35-54, and is a major contributor to premature mortality; and

Whereas, suicide is 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, of Indian River County, Florida, that September 2024, be designated as *National 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 10th day of September, 2024.

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

Susan Adams, Chairman

Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman

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