

# PROCLAMATION

## DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 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 have increased significantly in recent years according to our Medical Examiner's Office, with 146 suicide deaths in 2022; and

*Whereas*, in 2021 there were nearly two times as many suicides (48,183) in the United States as there were homicides (26,031), and for every death by suicide, there were 35 attempts; and

*Whereas*, according to Florida Health Charts, in 2021 the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population of suicide deaths in Indian River County was 19.8 compared to Florida at 13.8; and

*Whereas*, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-34, the fifth leading cause for ages 35-54, and is a major contributor to premature mortality; 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, of Indian River County, Florida*, that September 2023, 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 26th day of September, 2023.

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

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Joseph Earman, Chairman

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Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

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Joseph E. Flescher

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