



Proclamation Recognizing September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, in 2022, more than 49,400 Americans died by suicide, with an estimated 1.6 million suicide attempts according to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report, and during the last two decades youth suicide has reached its highest rate in more than 20 years. From 2007 through 2021, suicide rates for Americans ages 10 to 24 rose 62%; and

WHEREAS Albemarle County joins in observing National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month by raising awareness to foster a culture of understanding and empathy and encourages community members to becoming better educated on suicide risk factors, elevate local suicide prevention resources, and promote the de-stigmatization of conversations around mental health.

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline plays a helpful role in suicide prevention and mental health support by offering immediate confidential assistance 24/7 to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress with a simple, three-digit number for people to call, text, or chat online; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle County has played an important role in suicide prevention with the School Board adopting a resolution to promote secure firearm storage, first responders launching the Human Services Alternative Response Team and the University of Virginia convening the Community Safety Working Group; and

WHEREAS, there are many local organizations, including Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Students Demand Action, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Region Ten and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope through research, education, policies, advocacy, and resources for those who have been affected by suicide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that we, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, do hereby recognize September 2024 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Signed this 4th day of September 2024

Jim H. Andrews, Chair
Albemarle Board of County Supervisors