

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond & Co-Sponsored by Council
2 Members Becton, Bowman, Boylan, Carlucci, Cumber, DeFoor, Dennis,
3 Ferraro, Freeman, Gaffney, Hazouri, Morgan, Newby, Pittman,
4 Priestly Jackson, Salem, White, Wilson and Priestly Jackson:
5
6

7 **RESOLUTION 2020-562-A**

8 A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF
9 SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH IN
10 JACKSONVILLE; REQUESTING EMERGENCY PASSAGE
11 UPON INTRODUCTION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
12 DATE.
13

14 **WHEREAS**, suicide is a large and growing public health problem,
15 with more than one million suicide attempts and more than 47,000
16 deaths by suicide in the United States, and 3427 in Florida, and
17 177 deaths by suicide in Duval County last year; and

18 **WHEREAS**, suicide deaths can occur across the life span, but
19 suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 34
20 years of age. Nationally, there were more than twice as many deaths
21 by suicide than by homicide last year. The risk for suicide is much
22 higher for certain population groups, including military veterans,
23 LGBTQ youth, and among people who have experienced child abuse,
24 bullying, or sexual violence; and

25 **WHEREAS**, suicide deaths affect the health of the whole
26 community, but especially family and friends who may experience
27 shock, depression and guilt. Public health research indicates that
28 knowing someone who dies from suicide can increase one's own risk,
29 but also that suicide deaths can be prevented, as 9 out of 10
30 suicide attempt survivors do not go on to die by suicide; and

31 **WHEREAS**, at the community level, suicide prevention public

1 health strategies include: strengthening economic supports for
2 financial stability, increasing mental health care access,
3 decreasing public stigma, promoting relationship connections,
4 teaching emotional coping skills, and implementing trained crisis
5 intervention protocols. Suicide deaths may also be prevented among
6 friends and within households by creating protective environments,
7 lessening harms to prevent future risks, and reducing access to
8 lethal means, such as firearms which were involved in half of all
9 suicides last year; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Duval County is a strong advocate for "The Fire
11 Watch" program, which focuses on combating the epidemic of veteran
12 suicide by providing one-on-one counseling, local telephone
13 helplines, web resources, and a smart-phone application to unite
14 our War Fighters and allies to swiftly activate local assets, stand
15 watch, and build a life-saving network for Northeast Florida
16 veterans; and

17 **WHEREAS**, World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th, and
18 September 6-12, 2020 is National Suicide Prevention Week. Suicide
19 prevention strategies are needed in Jacksonville to raise public
20 awareness, and to promote resilience, with particular attention
21 paid to individuals and communities known to be at heightened risk;
22 now therefore

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

24 **Section 1.** The City of Jacksonville hereby declares the
25 month of September to be Suicide Prevention Month in Jacksonville
26 and advocates for all residents to work together to prevent suicide
27 deaths. With this declaration, City Council strives to reduce the
28 stigma surrounding suicide, educate the community as to the
29 warning signs and intervention methods, and to encourage access
30 to mental health support for all who need it.

31 **Section 2. Requesting emergency passage upon introduction**

1 **pursuant to Council Rule 4.901 Emergency.** Emergency passage upon
2 introduction of this legislation is requested. The nature of the
3 emergency is that World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10th,
4 and September 6-12, 2020 is National Suicide Prevention Week and
5 City Council desires to show its support to make strides locally to
6 prevent suicide attempts and deaths within our community, with
7 particular attention paid to individuals and communities known to
8 be at heightened risk.

9 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
10 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
11 without the Mayor's signature.

12
13 Form Approved:

14
15 /s/ Paige H. Johnston

16 Office of General Counsel

17 Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

18 GC-#1389009-v1-2020-562-A_.docx