

Proclamation

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH WITH 2-1-1

WHEREAS, it is nationally recognized that suicide deaths have been on the increase; and

WHEREAS, last year, 2-1-1's, dedicated and highly trained staff responded to nearly 127,000 requests for help from our five-county area. Of these, close to 49,000 people had mental health and substance use concerns, with 4,323 people requesting help with a suicide crisis; and

WHEREAS, the ensuing health, economic, and housing crisis has more recently taken its toll on mental health with increases in suicidal ideation and deaths, substance use, household violence, food insecurity, and more; and

WHEREAS, there is a call for a public health response to increase suicide intervention and prevention efforts with increased community-level efforts and strategies; and

WHEREAS, 2-1-1 is the central access point providing individuals and families with guidance and crisis support via telephone or text any time of day or night, and continues as the regional responder for the newly branded national 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline number; and

WHEREAS, 2-1-1's highly trained and caring staff work 24 hours a day saving lives- deescalating and stabilizing people in mental health or suicide crisis, and also guiding people struggling with substance use disorder to connect with the help they need.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF 2-1-1, THE CITY COUNCIL, AND THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, I, JOHNPAUL O'CONNOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, DECLARE AND RECOGNIZE SEPTMEBER 2023 AS;

“SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH”

and urge all citizens to be aware of the only telephone number they need to know to access information on over 1600 agency providers- with wide-ranging programs and services throughout our area that include food assistance, mental health care, health clinics, growth & development screenings, special needs resources, elder in crisis assistance, daily calls to check on seniors, caregiver support & veterans services and more...

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Westlake, Florida to be affixed this 5th day of September 2023.


JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor

ATTEST:


Zoie P. Burgess, CMC
City Clerk