Fla

City of Hiawatha
State of Iowa

PROCLAMATION

September Is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Whereas, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding each of the Suicide Prevention resources available to us and our community. The simple goal is to learn how to help those around us and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm, and

Whereas, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

Whereas, According to the CDC, each year more than 41,000 people die by suicide, and

Whereas, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the US, and the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-24, and

Whereas, Hiawatha, Iowa is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly state and place our full support behind local educators, mental health professionals, athletic coaches, pack leaders, police officers, and parents, as partners in supporting our community in simply being available to one another, and

Whereas, Local organizations like Suicide Prevention Services (SPS) and national organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are on the front lines of a battle that many still refuse to discuss in public, as suicide and mental illness remain too taboo a topic to speak on, and

Whereas, Every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles we all need the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles, and

Whereas, I encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors over the next few days and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer.

Now, Therefore, I, be it resolved that I, Mayor Bill Bennett, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2018, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of Hiawatha.

Dated and Signed this 5th day of September, 2018.

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Bill Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kelly Kornegor, City Clerk