

## PROCLAMATION

### National Suicide Prevention Month

WHEREAS; September is known around the United States as “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” and it a time to shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic; and

WHEREAS, September is a month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services; to promote mental health awareness and speak openly about the topic of suicide to help erase any stigma; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

WHEREAS, Every year thousands of individuals die by suicide, leaving behind their friends and family members to navigate the tragedy of loss. In many cases, friends and families affected by a suicide loss (often called “suicide loss survivors”) are left in the dark. Too often the feelings of shame and stigma prevent them from talking openly; and

WHEREAS; Oak Park, Illinois is affected by the loss of individuals who die by suicide, and we choose to publicly state and place our full support behind local mental health professionals, faith based community, educators, not-for profit organizations, parents, athletic coaches, veterans and emergency responders as partners in supporting our community as we seek to promote mental health awareness and work to end the stigma surrounding suicide; and

WHEREAS; local organizations like the Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Task Force, Thrive, Oak Park Mental Health Board, Riveredge Hospital and national organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and international groups like Hope For The Day (HFTD) are working every day to openly discuss suicide and mental illness in our communities and bring forward resources in a coordinated and thoughtful manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Anan Abu-Taleb, Oak Park Village President, do hereby proclaim the month of September as National Suicide Prevention Month and remind each resident that it is important to dedicated time year round to come together with collective passion and strength around a difficult topic as

everyone can all benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide and because just one conversation can change a life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that mental health matters to individuals, companies, organizations and I challenge every resident to learn more about mental illness and to see a person for who they are and take action, raise awareness, make a difference

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019.

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Anan Abu-Taleb  
Village President

ATTEST:

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Vicki Scaman  
Village Clerk