



City of Richmond

Proclamation



Declaring September as National Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond acknowledges the significant public health crisis of suicide, which claims the lives of more than 48,000 individuals annually in the United States, affecting not only those lost but also their families, friends, and communities; and

WHEREAS, for every suicide death, it is estimated that 135 people are directly impacted, meaning nearly 6.5 million individuals experience the profound effects of suicide loss each year, including grief, trauma, and the need for support; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County, which includes Richmond, experiences a suicide rate of approximately 9-10 deaths per 100,000 people annually, reflecting the ongoing need for local awareness and intervention; and

WHEREAS, mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and isolation have been exacerbated by societal stressors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly affecting vulnerable populations such as youth, veterans, and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, through local and national resources, including crisis hotlines, mental health services, and community outreach, there are vital programs that offer support and intervention for individuals at risk, yet more must be done to increase access to these services for all Richmond residents; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month, a time for communities to come together to break the stigma around mental health, to educate others on the warning signs of suicide, and to encourage open, compassionate dialogue on mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, local organization Keyz 2 the Future in collaboration with the City of Richmond's Community Crisis Response Program - Reaching Out with Compassion and Kindness is conducting a community awareness event on Saturday, September 30, 2024, at Cobiz in Richmond; and



WHEREAS, it is vital that all members of the Richmond community, including city leaders, educators, employers, and healthcare providers, unite in efforts to promote mental health, support those in crisis, and advocate for policies that expand access to prevention resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council on September 24, 2024, does hereby recognize September as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month in the City of Richmond. I urge all residents to increase their understanding of mental health challenges, support individuals in need, and work collectively to reduce the number of lives lost to suicide.

Mayor Eduardo Martinez
City of Richmond

Council Member Soheila Bana
City of Richmond, District 4

