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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division staff

DATE: September 7, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION
AWARENESS MONTH AND SEPTEMBER 10TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16TH AS
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH AND SEPTEMBER 10TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16TH AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH AND SEPTEMBER 10TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16TH AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

- WHEREAS,** Suicide is a serious and preventable public health problem both in Detroit and across the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year suicide is one of the leading causes of death for individuals age 10-64;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** The CDC has also found that suicide rates dramatically increased by 36% between 2000 and 2021, and 2022 set a record for suicide deaths with 48,500 people dying of suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2021, an estimated 12.3 million American adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.5 million planned a suicide attempt, and 1.7 million attempted suicide;² and
- WHEREAS,** Suicide and suicide attempts also affect the health and well-being of friends and loved ones, who may experience grief, shock, anger, guilt, depression, anxiety, and even thoughts of suicide themselves;³ and
- WHEREAS,** Research has shown that 46% of people who died by suicide have a known mental health condition;⁴ although that number does not reflect individuals with undiagnosed mental health conditions, which highlights the need for increased access to mental health services and treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** Although mental health is a common factor, there is rarely one single factor causing suicide, and other contributing factors often include personal relationships, trauma, substance use, physical health, and job, money, legal, or housing stress; and
- WHEREAS,** The stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicide hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help and can further traumatize survivors of suicide loss and individuals with lived experience of suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** States, cities, and communities can aid in suicide prevention by identifying and supporting people who are at risk of suicide, providing support to people experiencing financial and housing stress, promoting community spaces and activities that build community and

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/facts/index.html>

² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2022). Key substance use and mental health indicators in the United States: Results from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (HHS Publication No. PEP22-07-01-005, NSDUH Series H-57). Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2021-nsduh-annual-national-report>

³ Hamdan, S., Berkman, N., Lavi, N., Levy, S., Brent, D. (2020). The effect of sudden death bereavement on the risk for suicide. *Crisis*; 41(3):214–224. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1027/0227-5910/a000635>; Wagner, B., Hofmann, L., Grafiadeli, R. (2021). The relationship between guilt, depression, prolonged grief, and posttraumatic stress symptoms after suicide bereavement. *J Clin Psychol*; 77:2545–2558. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23192>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/suicide/>

connect people with one another, connecting at-risk people with coordinated physical and mental health care, and working to remove the stigma associated with suicide; and

WHEREAS, Since September was first declared as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in 2008, September has been a time to acknowledge those affected by suicide, raise awareness, and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes September 10-16 of 2023 as Suicide Prevention Week; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk's Office provide copies of this resolution to the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, Black Family Development, Inc., Corktown Health Center, Institute for Population Health, Southwest Counseling Solutions, the Detroit Association of Black Organizations, the StoneCrest Center, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - Michigan.

