

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS**, this proclamation recognizes suicide as a community-wide problem and suicide prevention as requiring a community effort; and
- WHEREAS**, Montana's suicide rate is the 4th highest in the nation and has ranked among the top five states with the highest rates of suicide for the past four decades; and
- WHEREAS**, since 2016 Missoula County has suffered 129 suicides; and
- WHEREAS**, suicide by firearm accounts for 51% of all suicides in the US and 67% of all suicides in Missoula and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-defense; and
- WHEREAS**, it is important in this time of encouraged social isolation to consider the effects on mental health, and improve our system for helping those in crisis through the development of a National Suicide Prevention Call Center here in Missoula, along with mobile response units who can effectively and empathetically intervene in crisis situations; and
- WHEREAS**, our community will support suicide prevention efforts to the maximum extent possible, with initiatives like Project Tomorrow Montana which works to reduce Missoula County suicide deaths and attempts through educational programs and evidence-based policy.

NOW THEREFORE, in coordination with National Suicide Prevention Week, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, do hereby recognize the week of September 6-12, 2020 as;

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 31st day of August, in the year two thousand twenty.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen, Mayor