

# The City of East Peoria



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS;** September is known around the United States as “National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”, most of us are quite aware of suicide. National Suicide Prevention Month is intended to help promote and give attention to the Suicide Prevention services available to us and our community. The goal is to speak openly about the topic of suicide to help erase the stigma surrounding it, and to direct those in need to the appropriate support services; and

**WHEREAS;** Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background. According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), 48,344 people died by suicide in the year 2020. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults in the US, and nearly 20% of all suicides were completed by people ages 45-54; and

**WHEREAS;** the rate was 1.5 times higher for Veterans than for non-Veteran adults over the age of 18 and each and every suicide directly impacts a minimum of 100 additional people, including family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and community members; and

**WHEREAS;** East Peoria, Illinois 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), national organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and international groups like Hope For The Day (HFTD) are on the front lines of a war that many still refuse to discuss, as suicide and mental illness remain too uncomfortable of a topic to talk about; and

**WHEREAS,** every member of our community should understand that throughout life’s struggles we all need the occasional reminder that we are all fighting our own battles; and

**WHEREAS,** I encourage all residents to take the time to check in with their family, friends, and neighbors on regular basis and to honestly communicate 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,** be it resolved that I, John P. Kahl, Mayor of the City of East Peoria, Illinois do hereby proclaim the month of September 2021 as

### National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of East Peoria to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

  
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John P. Kahl  
MAYOR  
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Morgan R. Carlwald  
ATTEST: CITY CLERK