

Board of Supervisors  
County of Prince George, Virginia

Resolution

At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Prince George held in the Boardroom, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

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Present:

Alan R. Carmichael, Chairman  
Donald R. Hunter, Vice-Chairman  
Floyd M. Brown, Jr.  
Marlene J. Waymack  
T. J. Webb

Vote:

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On motion of \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, which carried unanimously, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION; PROCLAMATION; NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2018

WHEREAS, suicide is the 11th leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 16 minutes; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 5 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and

WHEREAS, 51% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and

WHEREAS, the overall suicide rate in our country has only slightly declined from record highs in recent years, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

WHEREAS, statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Association of Suicidology and District 19 Community Services Board which are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and bereavement services urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a statewide priority;
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;
3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the *National Strategy for Suicide*

*Prevention:*

- A. Promote awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.
- B. Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention.
- C. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.
- D. Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs.
- E. Develop and implement community-based suicide bereavement support services.
- F. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.
- G. Implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.
- H. Develop and promote effective clinical and professional practices.
- I. Increase access to, and community linkages with, mental health and substance abuse services.
- J. Improve reporting and portrayals of suicidal behavior, mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
- K. Promote and support research on suicide and suicide prevention.
- L. Improve and expand surveillance systems for suicide behavior.

WHEREAS, a great many suicides are preventable;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED that, the Prince George County Board of Supervisors, does hereby designate September 2018 as “*National Suicide Prevention Month*” in the County of Prince George, Virginia.

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Percy C. Ashcraft  
County Administrator