



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the suicide rate in Idaho is the 5th highest in the nation and is the second leading cause of death for Idahoans ages 15-44; and

WHEREAS, 32 beloved Idaho Falls citizens died from suicide in 2016 and many more citizens, friends and family members are affected by suicide each year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience; and

WHEREAS, resources to assist those considering suicide and/or those affected by suicide have not been effectively utilized for many reasons, including difficulty accessing services by behavioral healthcare providers trained in best practices and the negative stigma associated with engaging in behavioral health treatment and/or losing a loved one to suicide; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in 2010, suicides cost Idaho a total of \$329,244,000 of combined lifetime medical costs and lost work, which is equivalent to an average of \$1,135,325 per suicide death; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention has been identified as a key priority for Idaho's Suicide Prevention Action Network, Southeastern Idaho Public Health, the Southeastern Healthcare Collaborative, the Idaho Office of Suicide Prevention, local healthcare providers, and community partners; and

WHEREAS, public awareness, community engagement and evidence-based training are essential to prevent further suffering and loss of life;

THEREFORE, I, REBECCA CASPER, MAYOR of the City of Idaho Falls, do hereby proclaim September 11th – 16th, 2017 as:

Suicide Prevention Week

in Idaho Falls, and urge community members to engage with local advocacy groups and professionals to increase support for all people affected by and contemplating suicide by raising awareness, utilizing resources and by working together to prevent suicide.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Idaho Falls to be affixed on this 11th day of September, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Rebecca L. Noah Casper, Mayor
City of Idaho Falls