

City of Colorado Springs, Colorado

# Proclamation

## Suicide Prevention Month September 2024

- WHEREAS,** 189 El Paso County residents died by suicide and thousands of their friends and family were forever changed by these losses last year; and
- WHEREAS,** In El Paso County in 2023, suicide was the second leading cause of preventable deaths for people. A community wide comprehensive approach is needed for at risk populations of youth, middle aged men, older adults, LGBTQ+ community, people of color, veterans, service members, and their families, rural communities and those working in industries at higher risk for suicide such as emergency responders, construction, oil and gas, and agriculture.
- WHEREAS,** In 2023, suicide by firearm accounted for over 60% of suicide deaths in El Paso County (10% higher than the national average) supporting the idea that with ownership comes responsibility and increased awareness about the safe storage practices for suicide prevention is needed in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** Colorado Health Foundation's 2024 annual Pulse Poll results showed 60% of respondents experienced mental health strain such as anxiety, depression, loneliness, or stress.
- WHEREAS,** The Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County's vision is to reduce isolation, suicide attempts, and deaths by creating caring communities that are resilient, connected, and capable of supporting every person, regardless of the struggles they face; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Colorado Springs has joined together with the Suicide Prevention Collaborative, El Paso County Public Health, and numerous community partners to lead mental health and wellbeing through 1000 Neighborhood Gatherings, the Workplace Well-Being Summit, Pikes Peak Rising 360, and the City's Strategic Plan's Goal of Community Activation.
- WHEREAS,** The City of Colorado Springs asks that every resident sees that *Mental Health is All of Us* and everyone can prevent suicide through registering for Neighborhood Gatherings, participating in Weekends of Hope, taking a mental health training, safely storing firearms, and calling or texting 988 if you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health, emotional or substance use concern.
- WHEREAS,** The City of Colorado Springs prioritizes a citywide mental health initiative to prevent suicide and become the leading city on mental health and wellness in the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** The Mayor and City Council of Colorado Springs, do hereby recognize September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Month in Colorado Springs and applaud the efforts of The Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County as they strive to make a difference.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Colorado Springs to be affixed this twenty-seventh day of August 2024.

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Yemi Mobolade, Mayor  
City of Colorado Springs

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Randy Helms, President  
Colorado Springs City Council

