

**State of Texas**  
**County of Williamson**  
**Know all men by these presents:**

That on the 14th day of September 2020 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge  
Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct One  
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two  
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three  
Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes suicide as a public health problem with suicide being the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 15 to 24, the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 35-54, and the 11<sup>th</sup> leading of cause of death in Texans of all ages, and;

**WHEREAS**, there were 85 Williamson County suicides confirmed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2019 and 73 inquests of suicides conducted by Williamson County JP's during 2020, with the 2020 confirmed suicide number expected to increase when CDC releases confirmed data; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of suicide has increased from 2010 to 2019 by 15%, with the rate per 100K going from 12.12 from 2010 to 2014 and increasing to a rate of 14.0 per 100K from 2015 to 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background, but deaths are higher among males (78% of all deaths), whites, and elderly, with 60% of Texas suicides occurring among people 25-64 years of age; and

**WHEREAS**, each day in Texas there are more than 6 suicide deaths and nearly 30 hospitalizations for attempted suicide that according to the Texas Department of State Health Services; and

**WHEREAS**, stigma prevents persons from seeking the lifesaving help they need; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is preventable and recovery is possible; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to know the warning signs of suicide, which include: feeling sad and withdrawn for more than 2 weeks; feeling empty, hopeless ("I wish I was never born"), trapped, extremely sad, more anxious, agitated or full of rage; changing behaviors, such as: dramatic mood swings, eating or sleeping more or less, using drugs or alcohol more often; and impulsive or reckless behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, talking openly and honestly to friends and loved ones and not being afraid to ask if they are planning to kill or harm themselves can help save a life and knowing that professional help is available, including 24/7 assistance from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK), Bluebonnet Trails 24/7 Crisis Hotline – 1-800-841-1255 or 911, if there is an immediate crisis; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes September 2021 as National ***“Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”*** and encourages all to stay connected and to not hesitate to seek mental health treatment, just as you would not hesitate to seek care for a heart attack or diabetes.

**PROCLAIMED THIS 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021.**

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Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge