

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, this proclamation recognizes suicide as a community-wide problem and suicide prevention as requiring a community effort; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana's suicide rate is the 3rd highest in the nation and has ranked among the top five states with the highest rates of suicide for the past four decades; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2017 Missoula County has suffered 143 suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide by firearm accounts for 50% of all suicides in the US and 62% of all suicides in Montana and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-defense; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to support our new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Call Center here in Missoula, along with our new mobile response units who can effectively and empathetically intervene in crisis situations; and

**WHEREAS**, our community will support suicide prevention efforts to the maximum extent possible, with initiatives like Project Tomorrow Montana which works to reduce Missoula County suicide deaths and attempts through educational programs and evidence-based policy.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in coordination with National Suicide Prevention Week, I, Gwen Jones, Acting Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, do hereby recognize the week of September 7-13, 2022 as;

## SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 7th day of September, in the year two thousand twenty-two.



Gwen Jones,  
Acting Mayor