

Proclamation

WHEREAS, mental illness affects thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and general interaction with others and the stigma associated with mental illness must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace in seeking help and treatment; and

WHEREAS, recent tragedies in Broward County and nationwide require that our communities engage in meaningful education and discussion to identify the early signs of mental illness in order to take charge of the situation and reverse it before it gets worse; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the recent tragedies nationwide and in Broward County, according to the CDC's Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report for 2022, retrieved May 11, 2024, more than 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022 and there were an estimated 1.6 million suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need for self-care and identifying and treating mental illness, a grassroots effort was undertaken by the principal mental health providers in Broward County (including county/federal government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations), to join forces in a historic effort to increase awareness and education by holding an in-person summit during 2024 National Suicide Prevention Week; and

WHEREAS, the "7th Annual Broward Mental Health Summit," titled 360 Degrees of Wellness, presented by The Sheriff's Foundation of Broward County, Memorial Healthcare System, UKG, Aetna, and the Mental Health Television Network, brings together the leading mental health providers in South Florida from county/federal government, private practice, nonprofits, and academia to discuss and examine the current issues relating to mental health in Broward County affecting all populations; and

WHEREAS, everyone wanting to learn about mental wellness and issues facing our communities, whether you're a healthcare provider, first responder, community leader, business owner, elected official, or just simply a concerned citizen, you'll learn from the 7th Annual Broward Mental Health Summit information tools and a better understanding of the challenges affecting mental health.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy Ruzzano, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim September 12, 2024, as

BROWARD MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be affixed this 4th day of September 2024.



TOMMY RUZZANO, MAYOR