

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the month of September is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 45,000 Americans die by suicide each year. In Florida, a person dies by suicide every two hours on average. Suicides in Florida far outnumber homicides; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a national epidemic costing the lives of 6,000 Veterans each year and is a leading cause of death for first responders. Firearms are the leading method of suicide in Florida and the most lethal method. Access to a gun triples the risk of death; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Hospital Association, and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have declared a national emergency in child mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the second leading cause of death for children, adolescents, and young adults age 10 to 24 years; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to recognize the signs of depression that may lead to thoughts of suicide including: speaking about wanting to die, feelings of isolation or hopelessness, increased use of drugs or alcohol, and severe mood swings; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to recognize the best methods to prevent suicide when a person is in crisis: ask if the person is thinking of taking their life; keep them safe and remove their access to lethal means such as poisons, prescription drugs, and firearms; get them professional help. In Florida, dial 988 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or text 741741; and

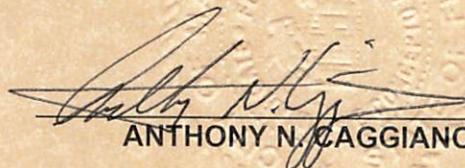
**WHEREAS**, the League of Women Voters of Broward County has provided significant leadership in suicide prevention through community education and creation of their *Lock It Up!* Gun Safety Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has provided significant leadership in suicide prevention through community education and programming.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Anthony N. Caggiano, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim September 2023, as

## SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

  
ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, MAYOR