

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Broward's Mission is to bring awareness and programs to Broward County in support of a world-class treatment and recovery system for people with mental illness. NAMI Broward provides support, education, and advocacy to foster better understanding, coping strategies, and positive outcomes for people and their families affected by mental illness; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are medical illnesses, which are common and treatable; and

WHEREAS, good healthcare includes mental healthcare, which must be accessible to all people regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, values, and cultural beliefs. It is essential that these factors be considered as a part of treatment, so that shared community can be a source of strength; and

WHEREAS, the depth of the mental health crisis for children and adults is staggering. One in five adults will experience mental illness in any given year. Half of all mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75% begin by 24 years old. Earlier treatment means better outcomes; and

WHEREAS, half of children and adults living with mental illness never receive life-changing treatment due to a lack of access to care, and stigma. The resilience and recovery of people living with a mental diagnosis should be celebrated rather than stigmatized; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is not a crime. However, inmates with a mental health diagnosis are overrepresented in jails and prisons. NAMI applauds Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers, Diversion Programs, and Mobile Crisis Response Teams that effectively decrease justice system involvement and increase safety; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illnesses are able to live meaningful lives and make important and valuable contributions. Communities support those with mental illnesses by ensuring accessibility to quality care and appropriate support; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Broward County raises awareness of mental health, encourages those living with mental illnesses to seek help, and to be uplifted by our message: *"You Are Not Alone"*.

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

MENTAL HEALTH 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 3rd day of May 2023.



ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, MAYOR

Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano, Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio, Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz, Commissioner Joanne Simone