

Proclamation

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are biologically based medical problems that disrupt a person's daily functioning; and

WHEREAS, high blood pressure is a disorder of the heart, and diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are brain disorders. Untreated, these conditions can lead to severe disturbances in thinking, feeling, behavior or mood; resulting substantially in a diminished capacity for dealing with the ordinary demands of life; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five adults will be diagnosed with a mental illness in their life, and only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness will seek treatment. The stigma and fear of discrimination over their condition prevents many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help. Research shows that the most effective way to reduce the stigma is through personal contact with someone with a mental illness.

WHEREAS, good mental health is critical to the well-being of our families, communities, schools, and businesses. People with mental illness make significant contributions to our families and communities and recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Broward County is to promote greater public awareness about mental illness in order to change negative attitudes, behaviors, and stigma toward mental illness; and to improve the quality of life for all individuals affected by these diseases.

WHEREAS, NAMI Broward provides education and support programs to the community to help over 3,500 people with mental illness and their families in our community each year. NAMI Broward promotes early, accessible quality mental health care that prevents hospitalizations, incarcerations and saves money; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Broward advocates for improved healthcare, housing, criminal justice rehabilitation, meaningful job opportunities for people with mental illness, and supporting public education programs designed to help eliminate the pervasive stigma surrounding severe mental illness.


WHEREAS, NAMI Broward County observes the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month to raise awareness of mental health, to encourage those living with mental illness to seek help, and to uplift its message: "You Are Not Alone."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Arlene R. Schwartz, Mayor of the City of Margate, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021, as

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

City of Margate urges all citizens in our community to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, while promoting and working to provide appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the official seal of the City of Margate to be
affixed this 5th day of May 2021.


ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, MAYOR