

RESOLUTION NO. 20230921-068

WHEREAS, suicide is a substantial and persistent public health issue in Austin; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Austin lost 159 of its residents to suicide, the highest number in 13 years, according to Austin Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes suicide is a public health issue; and

WHEREAS, the City is not immune to these tragedies, suffering incidents involving residents of all races, genders, ages, and other social characteristics who either express, attempt, or die by suicide, and these incidents affect many members of our community, making this a community matter requiring action; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to improving the health and well-being of all its residents; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to recognize the need to increase awareness and understanding of suicidal deaths and actively provide information regarding the prevention of suicide through various social media platforms; and

WHEREAS, everyone can help prevent suicide by learning the warning signs, promoting prevention and resilience, and committing to social change; and

WHEREAS, educating the community on suicide risk factors, warning signs, how to report individuals either threatening suicide or showing signs of becoming at risk of attempting suicide, and removing the stigma about mental health treatment, recovery, and resiliency, is good policy; and

WHEREAS, increased efforts to assist residents with mental illness and reach those most at risk of death by suicide is an important intervention; **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to:

1. Add a link on the City's website for information on the prevention and awareness of suicide;
2. Utilize the various social media platforms available to the City to provide suicide awareness and prevention materials to the Austin community;
3. Provide City first responders the training and equipment needed to promote awareness and prevention efforts related to causes of suicide, such as bullying and mental health issues;
4. Support Austin area schools and school districts with any efforts regarding prevention and awareness of suicide;
5. Participate in suicide prevention initiatives by working with local organizations that listen to and support those who are at risk for suicide;
6. Provide messaging that targets those that could be family and friends of individuals suffering from mental challenges; and
7. Consider conducting public workshops that focus on giving tools and resources to combat suicidal tendencies for individuals challenged with suicidal ideations and their friends and family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to initiate amendments to Section 4-3-45 of the City Code related to design and operation requirements of an archery range or shooting facility to require they conspicuously post on the premises, in areas visible to the public, suicide prevention materials, including information on seeking help for a person at risk of suicide and information on safely storing firearms, and shall return to City Council with a draft ordinance by November 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council pledges to lead and promote community collaboration, planning, and implementation efforts toward the evaluation of strategies for suicide prevention and intervention education, promotion of aftercare services, and efforts to de-stigmatize the need for mental health care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council will advance the current strategies and best practices of health organizations, such as Austin Travis County Integral Care, Central Health, Austin Public Health, and other appropriate organizations.

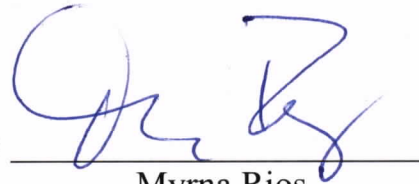
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

City Council lends its support in the fight to end suicide by adding it to its legislative priorities and agenda and encourages the Texas legislature and broader community to support enabling legislation related to suicide prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Williamson County Commissioners Court, the Travis County Commissioners Court, the Hays County Commissioners Court, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, the Austin state and federal delegations, and to the President of the United States.

ADOPTED: September 21, 2023 **ATTEST:**



Myrna Rios
City Clerk