



**Johnson County Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor  
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month September 2023**

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1,100 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the eleventh leading cause of death in Tennessee, the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages of 10 to 24 as well as the second leading cause of death of adults ages 35-44 and the sixth leading cause of death for adults ages 45-54; and

**WHEREAS**, more than three lives a day are lost to suicide in Tennessee, which means we lose 21 Tennesseans each week and 97 people per month; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee veterans, active-duty military, and National Guardsmen face a disproportionate risk as compared to the general population, with more dying from suicide than combat; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this tragic problem is the key to preventing further suffering and loss of life; and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment as the highest risk for suicide is among the survivors of those who died by suicide or those who have attempted suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention has been declared a state priority by the Governor; and the Tennessee Legislature has declared teen suicide prevention as a state priority in partnership with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network to implement the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and

**WHEREAS**, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles we all need occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all Tennesseans to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug can go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Patton, Mayor of Johnson County, do hereby proclaim September 2023, as

**SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

In Johnson County, Tennessee, and do urge all citizens to work to prevent suicide and to raise awareness and tolerance around all people affected by this tragedy.