

That on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in a duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Dan A. Gattis, County Judge  
Lisa L. Birkman, Commissioner Precinct One  
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two  
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three  
Ron Morrison, Commissioner Precinct Four

And at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following:

#### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes suicide as a public health problem; and

**WHEREAS**, a report from the American Association of Suicidology, states that 42,773 people reportedly lost their lives to suicide in the United States in 2014, and in that same year, in Texas, an estimated 3,254 people lost their lives to suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, that report reflects approximately 1 person every 12.3 minutes in our nation will take their own life; and

**WHEREAS**, also in that same report, it is estimated that 15.09 million people in the United States today are survivors of suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against prevention by discouraging persons at risk from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is preventable and the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services should be eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, statewide suicide prevention efforts have been and should continue to be developed and encouraged; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage local strategies to implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, community partners such as the Williamson County Mental Health Task Force, the Youth Suicide Prevention Sub-Committee, Alan's Hope Project, Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, Pick with Austin, the Williamson County's Mobile Outreach Team & Crisis Intervention Team, Veteran Services, local private facilities, and other organizations as well as passionate individuals are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths and the pain loved ones endure; and

**WHEREAS**, we strive for healthy and empowered individuals and families in our community through education and awareness of programs that provide services that include prevention, treatment, and support services. We recognize that the ARTS play an important role in our mental health wellbeing. And, we continue to research and evaluate ways to bring awareness and services to the citizens of Williamson County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**; that the Williamson County Commissioners Court hereby designates September 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as:

#### **"Suicide Prevention and Awareness Week"**

and encourages all residents to spread a message of HOPE by helping friends and family members when in need and telling others of services available in the community; and furthermore invites the public to attend a Ceremony of Hope & Mural Unveiling on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at 2001 N. Mays Street in Round Rock, Texas.

**PROCLAIMED THIS 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016.**

Signed:

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Dan A. Gattis, County Judge