

State of Texas
County of Williamson
Know all men by these presents:

That on the 27th day of September 2022 the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas met in duly called session at the Williamson County Courthouse, 710 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge
Terry Cook, Commissioner Precinct One
Cynthia P. Long, Commissioner Precinct Two
Valerie Covey, Commissioner Precinct Three
Russ Boles, Commissioner Precinct Four

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

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes suicide as a public health problem with suicide being the 11th leading of cause of death in Texans, and the 3rd leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 24, and;

WHEREAS, Suicide accounts for 1 of every 100 deaths globally, and it is the second leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 10 and 34, and;

WHEREAS, there were 69 Williamson County suicides confirmed by the CDC in 2020 and 74 inquests of suicides conducted by Williamson County JP's during 2021, and;

WHEREAS, suicide thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background, but deaths are higher among males (78% of all deaths), and;

WHEREAS, each day in Texas there are more than 6 suicide deaths and nearly 30 hospitalizations for attempted suicide that according to the Texas Department of State Health Services, and;

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable and there is hope when the stigma associated with seeking treatment for mental illness, substance abuse and suicide prevention services is eliminated and barriers that discourage persons at risk from seeking life-saving help are removed, and;

WHEREAS, it is important to know the warning signs of suicide, which include: feeling sad and withdrawn for more than 2 weeks; feeling empty, hopeless ("I wish I was never born"), trapped, extremely sad, more anxious, agitated or full of rage; changing behaviors, such as: dramatic mood swings, eating or sleeping more or less, using drugs or alcohol more often; and impulsive or reckless behavior, and;

WHEREAS, talking openly and honestly to friends and loved ones and not being afraid to ask if they are planning to kill or harm themselves can help save a life. Know that professional help is available, including 24/7 assistance from the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988, Bluebonnet Trails 24/7 Crisis Hotline – 1-800-841-1255 or 911, for an immediate crisis, and;

NOW THEREFORE, the Williamson County Commissioners Court recognizes September 2022 as National ***"Suicide Prevention Awareness Month"*** and encourages all to stay connected and to not hesitate to seek mental health treatment, just as you would not hesitate to seek care for a heart attack or diabetes.

PROCLAIMED THIS 27th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2022.

Bill Gravell, Jr., County Judge