



# PROCLAMATION

## National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month



September 2018

**WHEREAS**, September is known around the United States as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and is intended to help promote awareness surrounding each of the Suicide Prevention resources available to us and our community. The simple goal is to learn how to help those around us and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

**WHEREAS**, suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, each year more than 41,000 people die by suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among adults in the US, and the second leading cause of death among people aged 10 to 24; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb, Illinois is no different than any other community in the country, but chooses to publicly state and place our full support behind local educators, mental health professionals, athletic coaches, pack leaders, police officers, and parents, as partners in supporting our community in simply being available to one another; and

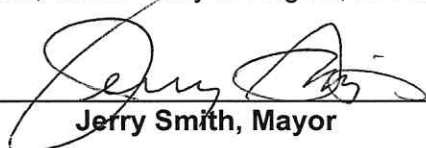
**WHEREAS**, local organizations like Suicide Prevention Services (SPS) and national organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are on the front lines of a battle that many still refuse to discuss in public, as suicide and mental illness remain too taboo a topic to speak on; and

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

**WHEREAS**, I encourage all residents to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and neighbors over the next few days 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.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Jerry Smith, Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2018, as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in the City of DeKalb.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of DeKalb, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

  
Jerry Smith, Mayor

