



## **TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

### **A Proclamation Declaring September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, September 2024 is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, when millions of people around the world join their voices to share a message of hope and healing; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States and in 2023, our region experienced 33 deaths by suicide, predominantly middle to late aged white males (CDPHE); and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States 49,476 people died by suicide in 2022, equivalent to one death every 11 minutes (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, 13.2 million adults seriously thought about suicide, 3.8 million adults made a plan for suicide, and 1.6 million adults attempted suicide (CDC); and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, Colorado had the 10<sup>th</sup> highest suicide rating of states in the United States - 1,293 people died by suicide in Colorado (CDC); and

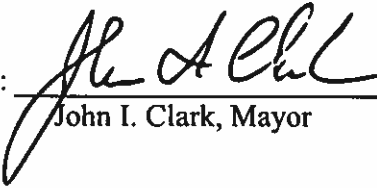
**WHEREAS**, organizations such as Tri-County Health Network are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide through research, education, advocacy, and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide or who struggle, and urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem, that there is no single cause of suicide, that anyone can experience suicidal thoughts, and that recovery from suicidal ideation is possible.
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities and address the disparity in access to mental healthcare for underserved and underrepresented groups, and advocate for ending these disparities.
3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the Colorado-National Collaborative for Suicide Prevention and our local Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Recovery Coalition (SPARC).

4. Develop and implement strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs as well as support Postvention Plans for a community response to a death by suicide.
5. Support the efforts of SPARC in fostering connection and spreading the message that **Hope Lives Here**.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Ridgway Town Council, do hereby recognize the month of September 2024 as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month” in the Town of Ridgway.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024

By:   
John I. Clark, Mayor

Attest:   
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk