



City of Bethel Proclamation

In Recognition of the 2019 National Suicide Prevention Week

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates September 8 through September 14 as "National Suicide Prevention Week" in Bethel. This week overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 34; In Alaska suicide is the 1st leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15-24;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, over 47,000 people die by suicide in the United States each year;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2017 (the last year we have national data available), there were over 1.4 million suicide attempts;

WHEREAS, in 2017, suicide was the 5th leading cause of death in Alaska;

WHEREAS, in 2017, 200 people died by suicide in Alaska;

WHEREAS, all of us living in the YK region are affected by the tragedy of suicide;

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alaska State Suicide Prevention Council and YK Behavior Health envision a world without suicide, and 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 or who personally struggle, and urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem, and declare suicide prevention to be a priority.
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.
3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Alaska State Suicide Prevention Council.
4. Promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed current coping abilities of someone living with a mental health condition.
5. Develop and implement strategies to increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services;

WHEREAS, Help is available:

YKHC emergency Service	543-6499, 1-844-543-6499
Alaska CareLine	1-877-266-4357
Text	1-907-254-7836
National HotLine	1-800-273-8255
YKHC Behavioral Health	543-6100
Bethel Family Clinic	543-3773;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Fred Watson, Mayor of the City of Bethel, do hereby proclaim September 8-14, 2019 as "National Suicide Prevention Week" in Bethel.

IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF, I hereby affix my signature on this 27th day of August, 2019.

Fred Watson Mayor

Attest:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk