

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the U.S. since 1989 to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Seattle residents experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the past two years of pandemic-related fear, grief, isolation, and economic instability are impacting us all and increasing our vulnerability to violence and self-harm; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34, and 46 percent of people who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, 42 percent of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth; and

WHEREAS, approximately two in five people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness, and about 70 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of all people with mental health conditions experience them by age 14, and 74 percent by age 24; and

WHEREAS, early intervention is prevention, the most effective way to reduce the prevalence of mental health conditions which helps improve and save lives; and

WHEREAS, 988 will be implemented as the national suicide and mental health crisis hotline number in 2022, and Seattle is dedicated to reimagining and implementing a crisis response system which promotes help not handcuffs; and

WHEREAS, the stigma against mental health conditions and substance use disorder remains one of the greatest barriers to improving the lives of all Seattleites through better mental health; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization, and Seattle resident, has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

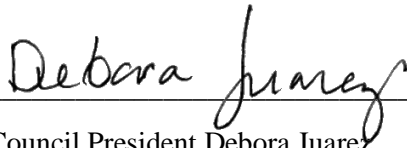
WHEREAS, the City of Seattle 2022 State Legislative agenda recognizes that, “a full continuum of behavioral health services is needed in our community to support people with behavioral health conditions, including mobile crisis response teams”; and

WHEREAS, with early and effective treatment, people with lived experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorder get better, live in recovery, lead fulfilling and empowered lives, and provide invaluable knowledge of how to improve and transform systems of care;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIMS

MAY 2022 TO BE

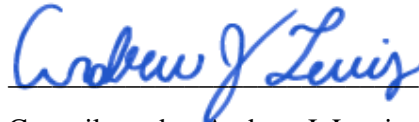
Mental Health Awareness Month



Council President Debora Juarez



Councilmember Lisa Herbold



Councilmember Andrew J. Lewis



Councilmember Tammy J. Morales



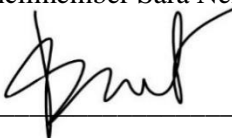
Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda



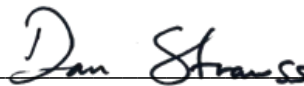
Councilmember Sara Nelson



Councilmember Alex Pedersen



Councilmember Kshama Sawant



Councilmember Dan Strauss

