

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 34, and one of the leading causes of all deaths in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, almost five times as many people died by suicide than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents; and,

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, the most recent data shows that nearly 50,000 people died by suicide across the United States in 2024, with an additional 2.2 million people attempting suicide. Of those tragedies, white males account for nearly 70% of the deaths and overall, men die by suicide nearly 4x as often as women; and,

WHEREAS, just one suicide often impacts 100's of additional people, including family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and community members – with one in five of those affected reporting that the experience had a devastating and lasting impact; and,

WHEREAS, recent statistics indicate that nationwide, more than 2/3 of communities do not have enough mental health providers to meet the level of need; and,

WHEREAS, September is known globally as “Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”, providing a dedicated time to come together around a difficult topic, raise the visibility of the mental health resources and suicide prevention services available in our communities, further the public conversation about mental health, raise awareness of the impact of suicide, help destigmatize the conversation and help connect those in need with the appropriate support services; and,

WHEREAS, organizations such as DuPage County Crisis Services, NAMI DuPage and others, serve on the front lines of a war that many refuse to discuss, as stigma regarding suicide and mental health issues remains prevalent;

WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential emotional support by phone and text – in English and Spanish – to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week across the United States and has established the “#BeThe1To” message to help spread the word about actions we can all take to prevent suicide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim September, 2026, as Suicide Prevention and Action Month in Downers Grove and encourage all residents to take the time to understand the importance of mental health education, recognize the importance of taking care of ourselves and others, to take proactive steps to care for each other and make suicide help resources – such as the DuPage Crisis Phone Support, bethe1to.com, the National Suicide Support Lifeline and others – known to all.

Dated this 1st Day of September 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois.



Mayor