Proclamation
World Suicide Prevention Day - September 10, 2024
National Suicide Prevention Month - September 2024

WHEREAS, suicide is a significant public health problem, claiming the lives of 26 individuals in Henderson County in 2023 according to NC DETECT, the highest number since 2015, and contributing to a tragic national toll expected to surpass 50,000 deaths for the first time in 2023; and

WHEREAS, one person dies by suicide every 10.6 minutes in the United States, making it the 11th leading cause of death in the country and one of the most preventable causes; and

WHEREAS, men are four times more likely to die by suicide, with 22 out of the 26 suicide deaths in Henderson County in 2023 being men; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County is creating a Suicide Postvention Response Team to offer support to families and the community as they navigate the challenges of prolonged grief and loss, demonstrating our commitment to comprehensive suicide prevention and response efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Henderson County Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Hope Coalition, is committed to implementing evidence-based suicide prevention strategies, including the launch of "Safe September," which promotes awareness that suicide is preventable and provides community members with life-saving resources such as gun locks and medicine lock pouches; and

WHEREAS, the public is invited to attend a Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention training event hosted by the Henderson County Department of Public Health on September 13, 2024, to further empower our community with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent suicide and save lives; and

WHEREAS, World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 and National Suicide Prevention Month in September provide an opportunity for Henderson County to join the global and national movements to raise awareness about suicide, honor those who have been affected by suicide, and promote the message that suicide is preventable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, we, the Fletcher Town Council, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2024, as World Suicide Prevention Day and September 2024 as National Suicide Prevention Month in the Town of Fletcher. We call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in the Town of Fletcher to work together to prevent suicide, offer support to those who have lost loved ones, and promote hope, health, and safety for all.

Signed this 3rd day of September, 2024

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Mayor Preston Blakely

ATTEST:

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Christine Thompson MMC NCCMC
Town Clerk