

WHEREAS, mental illness affects thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and general interaction with others and the stigma associated with mental illness must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace in seeking help and treatment; and

WHEREAS, recent tragedies in Broward County and nationwide require that our communities engage in meaningful education and discussion to identify the early signs of mental illness in order to take charge of the situation and reverse it before it gets worse; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the recent tragedies, according to the April 2020 Data Brief of the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, in 2018 there were 48,344 recorded suicides in the United States, and the annual U.S. suicide rate increased 35% between 1999 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, in response to the need for identifying mental illness, a grassroots effort was undertaken by the principal mental health providers in Broward County (including county/federal government, private sector, and nonprofit organizations), to join forces in a historic effort to increase awareness and education by holding an "in-person and virtual summit" open to the general public for FREE during the 2021 National Suicide Prevention Week; and

WHEREAS, the "4th Annual Broward Mental Health Summit," titled **Bouncing Back Together: Wellness, Empowerment, Resilience and Connection**, is presented by Memorial Healthcare System, UKG, and the Sheriff's Foundation of Broward County, bringing together the leading mental health providers in South Florida to discuss and examine the current issues relating to mental health in Broward County affecting all populations; and

WHEREAS, the summit will provide information tools and a better understanding of the challenges affecting those with mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, by acknowledging all those who have been affected by mental illness, we help the general public understand its effects on the citizens of the City of Coconut Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, hereby proclaims September 9, 2021, as

"BROWARD MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT DAY"

in the City of Coconut Creek in recognition of the City's commitment to raise awareness in order to combat stigma and educate our community about mental illness.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto
set our hands and caused the seal of the
City of Coconut Creek to be affixed
this 9th day of August, 2021.**