

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** this proclamation recognizes suicide as a community-wide problem and suicide prevention as requiring a community effort; and

**WHEREAS,** Montana's suicide rate is the highest in the nation and has ranked among the top five states with the highest rates of suicide for the past four decades; and

**WHEREAS,** since 2015 Missoula County has suffered 135 suicides; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide by firearm accounts for 51% of all suicides in the US and 75% of all suicides in Missoula and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-defense; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that more than 5 million people in the US are survivors of suicide (those who have lost loved ones to suicide) and in Montana there are over 1,700 new survivors each year; and

**WHEREAS,** our community should support suicide prevention efforts to the maximum extent possible, with initiatives like Project Tomorrow Montana which works to reduce Missoula County suicide deaths and attempts through educational programs and evidence-based policy.

**NOW THEREFORE,** in coordination with National Suicide Prevention Week, I, John Engen, Mayor of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, do hereby recognize the week of September 6-14, 2019 as;

## SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Missoula, in the State of Montana, to be affixed at Missoula, Montana, this 6th day of September, in the year two thousand nineteen.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen  
Mayor