

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 243

Approved June 1, 2021

WHEREAS, The month of May has been federally recognized as National Mental Health Awareness Month as a result of Proclamation 9603 which was passed on May 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that mental health is indeed a medical condition that impacts many of our community members throughout Providence and Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Mental health is a growing concern in our local communities, with an estimated 8.1% of adults in Rhode Island experiencing a major depressive episode in the prior year; and

WHEREAS, Mental illness is not limited to adults as 13.4% of Rhode Island children and young adults aged 12 to 17 were reported to have a major depressive episode in 2017-2018; and

WHEREAS, With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health awareness is even more critical due to the negative impacts from isolation, restrictions and lockdowns; and

WHEREAS, Many of the complex societal challenges faced in Rhode Island including homelessness and substance abuse are exacerbated by undiagnosed mental health disorders that inhibit an individual's ability to receive the proper treatment and resources that they so desperately need; and

WHEREAS, Many national and local organizations such as the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), the Rhode Island chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Medical Psychiatric Program at Hasbro Children Hospital, the Department of Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital, Bradley hospital, and many others, work to raise awareness around the importance of maintaining mental health; and


WHEREAS, With the State of Rhode Island returning to a "new normal" it is critical that we, as a society, look out for one another's mental and physical well-being to ensure that everyone is provided access to the resources they need to make our local communities the vibrant and productive spaces for everyone to succeed; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and calls upon every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to raise awareness on mental health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby join advocates and communities across the country in supporting efforts to raise awareness and destigmatize mental illness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, the City of Providence recognizes the month of May each year as "Mental Health Awareness Month."

IN CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 20 2021  
READ AND PASSED

  
JOHN J. IGLIZZI, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor  
Date: 6/1/21