



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.A.

City Council Meeting
September 9, 2024



Strategic Priority 2: Community Empowerment and Engagement

Enhance the sense of community and connection in Westminster through engaging methods of communication and dialogue that improve accessibility, increase understanding, and encourage participation in civic and City life.



Strategic Priority 3: Community Health and Safety

Invest in innovative and collaborative approaches to provide a continuum of services that preserve, promote, and protect the health, safety, and environment of Westminster.

Subject: Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week

Prepared By: Abby Fitch, City Clerk

Recommended City Council Action:

Councillor DeMott to present a proclamation to the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program recognizing September 8 through 14, 2024 as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week.

Summary Statement:

- Suicide is a tragic and disruptive event that deeply impacts many families.
- It is one of the leading causes of death among Colorado's youth and young adults.
- The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program was created by the parents of Mike Emme, a bright, funny, and loving teenager who took his own life when he could not find the words to express that he was struggling and needed help.
- The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program aims to prevent suicides and suicide attempts.

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 in expenditures

Source of Funds:

Not applicable

Policy Issue(s):

Does City Council wish to present a proclamation recognizing Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Week?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose not to present a proclamation on Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Week. This is not recommended because suicide prevention is an important community issue.

Background Information:

In 1994, Mike Emme tragically took his own life when he did not know how to express that he was in trouble and needed help. To honor his memory, Mike's parents, friends, and family founded Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Week, aiming to raise awareness for youth in need and help them find the assistance they require.

Suicide remains a leading cause of death among young people. The Light for Life Foundation International/Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program is committed to preventing suicides and suicide attempts by:

- Empowering individuals and communities through leadership, awareness, and education.
- Collaborating with support networks to reduce stigma and save lives.

The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program offers specialized training for school staff and students, focusing on suicide prevention. By sharing the story of how the program began, the organization inspires others to start local chapters and works closely with schools and nonprofit partners to reduce suicide rates and attempts.

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week supports the strategic priorities of Community Empowerment and Engagement and Community Health and Safety by involving the community and providing the necessary tools for suicide prevention, the program aims to foster collective action in reducing suicides and supporting those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Andrews

Jody L. Andrews
Acting City Manager

Attachments:

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation