

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone’s overall health and well-being, and;

WHEREAS, everyone experiences times of stress and struggle in their lives, and;

WHEREAS, one in four adults and one in five youth ages 13-18 experience serious mental illness and;

WHEREAS, 60 percent of adults and 50 percent of youth do not receive the treatment necessary for their mental health needs due to limited or no knowledge of the need, barriers to care, or fear and shame, and;

WHEREAS, research recognizes that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which include, but are not limited to physical, emotional and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, household dysfunction, untreated mental illness, or incarceration of a household member, domestic violence, and separation or divorce involving household members, are traumatic experiences that can have a profound effect on a child’s developing brain and body and can result in poor physical and mental health during childhood and adulthood, and;

WHEREAS, community understanding and available supports and services can greatly impact a person’s ability to handle their stress and struggle and move forward, and;

WHEREAS, promoting mental health and wellness leads to higher overall productivity, better educational outcomes, lower crime rates, stronger economies, lower health care costs, improved family life, improved quality of life and increased lifespan, and;

WHEREAS, studies show that the effects of ACEs are felt by people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status, and;

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, faith-based organization, non-profit agency and citizen shares accountability for the community’s mental health needs and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Delray Beach alongside Healthier Delray Beach, a Palm Healthcare collective impact initiative, recognizes the impact of awareness and education, access to services and acceptance of the importance of mental health and well-being to a person’s overall success and supports the implementation of trauma informed approaches throughout the systems of care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Shelly Petrolia, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission and the Citizens of Delray Beach, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as:

Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month

and we the City will stand with the nation in recognizing May as “Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month” hereby committing to focusing on the mental health needs of our citizens and encouraging conversation and collaboration to counteract the stigma and barriers to services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 16th day of April 2019.

SHELLY PETROLIA, MAYOR