

# The County of Chatham Georgia



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, September is known as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month which helps promote resources and awareness around the issues of suicide prevention and teaches how to help others and how to talk about suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide rates have been rising in every state, including Georgia, in the past ten years, with suicide being the 10th leading cause of death for all ages and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on people's lives, affecting mental health in adults and children, and increasing suicide risk among COVID-19 survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, over 47, 511 U.S. citizens lost their lives to suicide in 2020, including 1,585 people in the state of Georgia; According to the Georgia Department of Public Health, 65 people died by suicide in Chatham County in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, September is an appropriate month to designate as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month because September 10<sup>th</sup> is World Suicide Prevention Day, a day recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Chester A. Ellis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2021 as:

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

in Chatham County in recognition of this serious and preventable health problem and supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health, substance use, suicide prevention and resiliency-building services and resources.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



**ATTEST:**

Chester A. Ellis, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

Gail F. Gordon, Executive  
Assistant to the Chairman