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120 First Avenue North
PO Box 548 • Ilwaco, WA 98624
Phone: 360.642.3145
Fax: 360.642.3155
www.ilwaco-wa.gov

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, suicide is a major public health concern impacting countless individuals, families, across our nation; and within our own community on the peninsula; and

WHEREAS, mental health challenges and suicidal thoughts can affect anyone, regardless of age, background, or circumstance, and recognizing this is a crucial first step in prevention; and

WHEREAS, September is recognized nationally as Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, remember those lost to suicide, and share messages of hope and support; and

WHEREAS, fostering strong communities and providing accessible support systems are vital in reducing factors that increase the risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors; and

WHEREAS, a new, local organization in our community, the Peninsula Suicide Education Alliance, is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope through research, education, and advocacy; and

NOW THEREFORE, the participants of this Community Walk affirm their commitment to promoting suicide education, prevention awareness and support in this community. Everyone is encouraged to:

- Openly acknowledge suicide as an issue and talk about mental health without fear or judgment,
- Reach out to those who may be struggling, offering empathy and connection, and reminding them they are not alone,
- Become familiar with available resources for suicide prevention and crisis support and encourage others to access these vital services.

May every step taken raise awareness and help break the stigma surrounding suicide and may your participation today be a powerful symbol of dedication to creating a community where mental health is prioritized, support is readily available, and hope shines brightly for everyone.

Together, Let's walk towards a world without suicide.

Mayor Eddie Hillard III