

September 2026  
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, providing an opportunity not only to raise awareness, but to strengthen the connections, communities, systems, and supports that help prevent suicide and promote hope and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, World Suicide Prevention Day is observed annually on September 10, reminding us that suicide prevention is a shared responsibility and that conversations, connection, and compassionate action can save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide remains a serious public health concern in Idaho, where 437 Idahoans died by suicide in 2024, and the effects of suicide extend far beyond one individual to families, friends, workplaces, schools, first responders, and entire communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention calls for a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach that moves prevention upstream, strengthens communities, improves access to care and crisis services, promotes health equity, incorporates lived experience, and supports individuals, families, and communities following a suicide or suicide attempt; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide risk is influenced by many factors across our lives and communities, and effective prevention requires more than responding at the point of crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, “connection before crisis” reflects our commitment to creating communities where people are encouraged to reach out early, where asking for support is a normal part of caring for ourselves and one another, and where people know they do not have to wait until life becomes overwhelming to connect with someone who will listen; and

**WHEREAS**, meaningful suicide prevention includes compassionate listening, recognizing and responding when someone may be struggling, asking directly about suicide when there is concern, promoting safety during periods of increased risk, connecting people to appropriate support, and providing care and connection following a suicide loss or suicide attempt; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention must be accessible and responsive to the unique strengths, cultures, experiences, and circumstances of the people and communities we serve, recognizing that some populations experience greater suicide risk or greater barriers to accessing support; and

**WHEREAS**, Blaine County, each city within the County, and community partners serving the greater Blaine County area share responsibility for building connected and supportive communities through education, workplaces, healthcare, schools, public safety, local government, community organizations, families, and neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, every person can contribute to suicide prevention by creating connection, listening without judgment, remaining present, supporting safe homes, and helping another person know that they matter and that support is available.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Common Council of Bellevue, Idaho, does hereby proclaim September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Bellevue, and calls upon our citizens, schools, businesses, healthcare providers, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and community institutions to embrace a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention by:

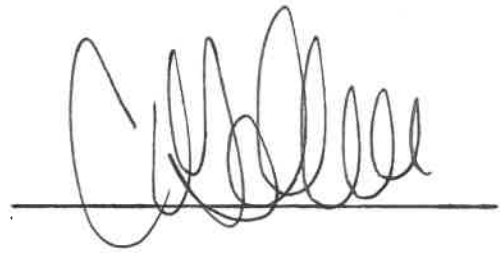
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strengthening connection and belonging; normalizing conversations about mental health and suicide; supporting people before, during, and after periods of distress; improving access to compassionate and culturally responsive support; taking 5 minutes to create safer environments; and ensuring that every person knows they have a place to turn.

Let this month and each day in it be a beginning point and commitment to learning how to move beyond responding to crisis toward building a community that helps prevent crisis from occurring.

We CAN create a Bellevue where people know they matter, where support begins with connection, and where no one must struggle alone.

PROCLAIMED this 14th day of September 2026.

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