

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, SUICIDAL THOUGHTS CAN AFFECT ANYONE REGARDLESS OF AGE, GENDER OR BACKGROUND AND SUICIDE IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF AN UNTREATED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.

WHEREAS, EVERY YEAR THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS DIE BY SUICIDE, LEAVING BEHIND THEIR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS TO NAVIGATE THE TRAGEDY OF LOSS AND FEELINGS OF SHAME AND STIGMA PREVENT THEM FROM TALKING OPENLY.

WHEREAS, THE OVERALL SUICIDE RATE IN THE U.S. HAS INCREASED BY 31% SINCE 2001 AND SUICIDE IS THE 2ND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR PEOPLE AGES 10-34 AND THE 4TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR PEOPLE 35-54 AND ALTHOUGH MORE WOMEN THAN MEN ATTEMPT SUICIDE, MEN ARE NEARLY FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DIE BY SUICIDE.

WHEREAS, 10% OF YOUNG ADULTS SAY THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED SUICIDAL THOUGHTS IN THE PAST YEAR AND 46% OF PEOPLE WHO DIE BY SUICIDE HAD A DIAGNOSED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.

WHEREAS, LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL YOUTH ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE THAN STRAIGHT YOUTH AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ARE 12 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION.

WHEREAS, IN 2017, SUICIDE WAS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVES BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10-34, THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS, AGES 15-24, THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, AGES 15-24, THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR HISPANIC PEOPLE IN THE U.S., AGES 15-34 AND AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE ADULTS DIE BY SUICIDE AT A RATE 20% HIGHER THAN NON-HISPANIC WHITE ADULTS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PASQUALE MENNA, MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 2020 AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH IN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK AND, WHILE SUICIDE PREVENTION IS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS YEAR-ROUND, SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH PROVIDES A DEDICATED TIME TO COME TOGETHER WITH COLLECTIVE PASSION AND STRENGTH AROUND A DIFFICULT TOPIC. I URGE ALL CITIZENS TO ENCOURAGE HONEST CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUICIDE, BECAUSE JUST ONE CONVERSATION CAN CHANGE A LIFE.

PASQUALE MENNA
MAYOR