

# The County of Chatham Georgia



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, suicide rates have been rising in every state, including Georgia, since 1999, with suicide being the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one person dies by suicide every 11 minutes, with over 48,000 reported deaths and estimated more than one million attempts over the past year in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 1,569 people lost their life to suicide in Georgia in 2019, including 65 deaths and estimated 1,625 attempts in Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, many factors contribute to suicide among individuals with and without known mental health conditions, including challenges related to relationships, substance use, physical health, and stress and the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing suicide involves everyone in the community; *Prevent Suicide Today* is a community-based evidence-based suicide prevention and resilience-building program supported by the Chatham County Commissioners and implemented through the collaboration of over 20 dedicated and passionate partner organizations in Chatham County.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Albert J. Scott, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of September as:

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

in Chatham County recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert J. Scott", is written over a horizontal line.

Albert J. Scott, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen L. Stone", is written over a horizontal line.

Helen L. Stone, District 1 Commissioner  
Chairman Pro Tem