

# Resolution



ORDER NO. 2024-0903

DATE: September 3, 2024

STATE OF TEXAS §

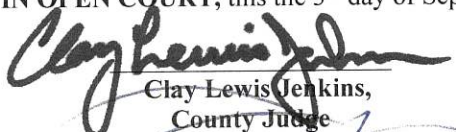
COUNTY OF DALLAS §

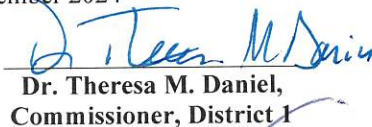
**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 3rd day of September 2024, on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner District 1, and seconded by Dr. Elba Garcia, Commissioner District 4, the following Resolution was adopted:

- WHEREAS**, The Dallas County Commissioners Court recognizes September as National Suicide Awareness Month. This month serves as an essential reminder to shed light on the urgent issue of suicide and to promote awareness of the myriad resources available for individuals seeking support. Suicide represents a tragic reality affecting individuals, families, and communities across the nation, transcending all demographics; and
- WHEREAS**, Suicide remains a grave concern that affects countless individuals and communities. Alarming, men disproportionately bear the burden of this crisis, accounting for 79% of suicide deaths and being four times more likely to die by suicide compared to women. This situation is particularly distressing as suicide has become the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 to 24, ranking as the eleventh leading cause of death overall in the United States. Furthermore, suicide rates among marginalized groups are significantly higher, underscoring the diverse challenges different populations face; and
- WHEREAS**, Nearly 50,000 people tragically lost their lives to suicide in the U.S. in 2022, translating to an average of one death every 11 minutes. The mental health crisis is further highlighted by the fact that approximately 13.2 million adults seriously contemplated suicide, and about 1.6 million made attempts. Despite a temporary decline in suicide rates from 2018 to 2020, alarming trends showed a steep increase back to peak levels by 2022, particularly among the elderly- specifically those aged 85 and older; and
- WHEREAS**, In Texas alone, over 4,000 fatalities were reported in 2021. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 to 34, and the state continues to grapple with inadequate mental health infrastructure, as 69% of communities report being unable to meet the mental health needs of their residents in 2023. The Report on Suicide and Suicide Prevention in Texas 2022 Update indicates that Texas has witnessed a staggering 36.7% rise in the suicide death rate since 2000, with the age group of 25-29 experiencing the most significant increase at 69%.; and
- WHEREAS**, Data from the 2021 Youth Risk Behaviors Survey revealed that 10% of high school students in Texas reported attempting suicide, notably rates among female students were higher than their male counterparts. Furthermore, Vulnerable populations including youth in foster care face a rate that is over three times that of their peers. These statistics highlight the urgent necessity for educational programs and mental health services specifically designed for young people; and
- WHEREAS**, One such service available to all is the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. It stands as a critical resource, providing 24/7 support for individuals facing mental health or substance use crises. This helpline enables individuals to connect with trained crisis counselors through calls, texts, and chats, offering immediate assistance and support; and
- WHEREAS**, As we observe National Suicide Awareness Month, we must emphasize the importance of mental health support and the urgent need for accessible resources. By fostering awareness, encouraging open dialogue, and promoting the availability of support services, we can help prevent suicide and save lives within our communities. It is vital to underscore that help is always available and that, even in the darkest times, hope can prevail. Together, we can work to create a culture that prioritizes mental health and wellness, ensuring that no one faces their struggles alone.

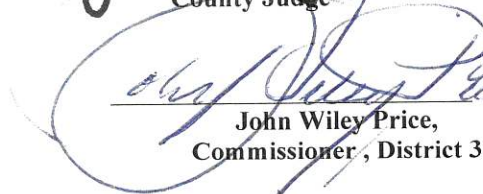
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dallas County Commissioners Court proudly designates September as National Suicide Awareness Month. We urge government officials at all levels, public health workers, community leaders, residents, and stakeholders to unite in the shared commitment of suicide prevention for those who are suffering in silence. The Dallas County community is invited to join the Greater Dallas Suicide Prevention Coalition and local leaders on September 10, 2024, from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM for the annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention program. This important event will take place in the ceremonial room on the 6th floor of the Dallas County Records Building. Together, let us raise awareness and take action to support those in need.

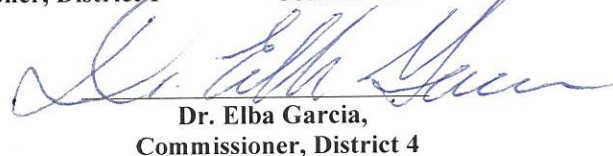
**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024

  
Clay Lewis Jenkins,  
County Judge

  
Dr. Theresa M. Daniel,  
Commissioner, District 1

  
Andrew Sommerman,  
Commissioner District 2

  
John Wiley Price,  
Commissioner, District 3

  
Dr. Elba Garcia,  
Commissioner, District 4