



*Proclaiming September 2023
National Suicide Prevention Month in Ventura County*

Whereas, every year, suicide claims the lives of tens of thousands of individuals across the United States, leaving behind a trail of heartbreak, grief, and loss; and

Whereas, the COVID 19 pandemic and the fentanyl overdose epidemic have taken a mental, emotional, and physical toll on individuals and families; and

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control's provisional data for 2022 shows a record high 49,449 suicide deaths in the United States, with firearms used in more than 50% of all suicides; and

Whereas, suicide deaths are increasing fastest among people of color, younger individuals, and people who live in rural areas; and

Whereas, the CDC data show guns continue to be the leading cause of death for children and teens (ages 1-19) in the United States for the fifth straight year; and

Whereas, roughly 68% of all firearm-related deaths in Ventura County occurring over the 2017-2022 period were attributed to suicide, meaning 218 individuals in our County took their life by firearm; and

Whereas, reducing access to firearms among persons at risk of suicide is an effective and known preventative strategy, as is safely securing, storing, and locking firearms in households where children are present; and

Whereas, suicide is a serious public health problem, but it is preventable; and

Whereas, everyone has a role to play to save lives and is encouraged to learn the warning signs of suicide, the factors that increase the risk for suicide, and the factors that reduce the risk of suicide by visiting www.988lifeline.org; and

Whereas, if you or someone you know is in crisis, please contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling or texting 988. It offers 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims the month of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month" and reaffirms our commitment to raising awareness, providing resources, and fostering a compassionate and supportive community for all individuals struggling with mental health challenges and suicidal thoughts.

Presented On This 26th Day of September 2023

Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District

Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District

*Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Matt LaVere, Supervisor 1st District*

Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District

Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District