

Proclamation

**REQUESTED BY
BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, mental illness affects one in five adults each year, and one in seventeen adults live with mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia. Those affected come from all backgrounds, education levels, and socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, nationally, more than half of all those suffering from mental illness do not receive care, and sometimes decades occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, an estimated 27 percent of people in Broward County, Florida lacked health insurance, and this rate would only be exacerbated by the economic impacts of the Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Pandemic has put undue stress on individuals and families, and these circumstances including isolation, insecurity, and loss can trigger episodes of anxiety and depression; and

WHEREAS, stigma against those with mental illness is pervasive, worsens the impact of mental illness, and leads to discrimination and further harm to individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to know that recovery from mental illness is possible, and with treatment, individuals can lead full, productive, healthy lives and fully take part in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Commissioners encourage every citizen to educate themselves about mental illness, undergo free mental health and depression screenings and, if necessary, seek successful treatment for themselves or family members; and

WHEREAS, Broward County recognizes the work of many partners in serving those with mental health needs including the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition (BBHC), Henderson Behavioral Health, Mental Health America of Southeast Florida, National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Broward County, and many others; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that a month should be set apart for the direction of our thoughts toward mental health and wellbeing; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

That the Board hereby designates, **May** as "**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**" in Broward County, Florida and urges all citizens in our community to commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate, accessible resources for all people with mental illnesses.

May 1, 2020
Date



[Signature]
Mayor