

# *Proclamation*

## *Suicide Prevention Awareness Month September 2016*

**WHEREAS,** in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 12.3 minutes, with 42,773 deaths by suicide in our country during 2014; and

**WHEREAS,** in our country, suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, and is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for people of all ages; and

**WHEREAS,** each person's death by suicide intimately affects at least eighteen other people, with over 750,000 newly bereaved each year; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide risk factor examples are, mental illness, substance abuse, previous suicide attempts, hopelessness, access to lethal means, recent loss of loved ones, unemployment, and vulnerability to self-harm; and

**WHEREAS,** many of those people who died never received effective behavioural health services, for many reasons including the difficulty of accessing services by healthcare providers trained in best practices to reduce suicide risk, the stigma of using behavioural health treatment, and the stigma associated with losing a loved one to suicide; and

**WHEREAS,** protective factors are, high self-esteem, social connectedness, problem-solving skills, supportive family and friends, all examples that buffer against suicide and suicidal behaviours; and

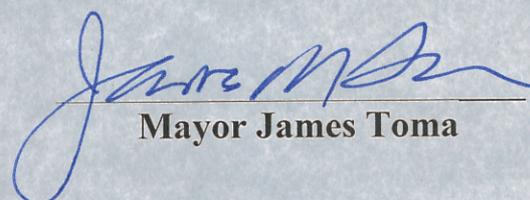
**WHEREAS,** the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Federation for Mental Health, focus on raising awareness that suicide is a major preventable cause of premature death on a global level; and

**WHEREAS,** Suicide Prevention Awareness Month represents a call for action and involvement by the government and organizations to contribute to the cause of suicide awareness and prevention through activities, events, conferences, and campaigns. By collaborating together in this endeavor, we can indeed save lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, James Toma, Mayor of the City of West Covina,** do hereby proclaim September, 2016, as "*Suicide Prevention Awareness Month*" in the City of West Covina to increase suicide prevention awareness.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016



  
Mayor James Toma