

# City of Annapolis



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS mental health is part of everyone's overall health and well being, and mental illness is prevalent in our City, state and nation, with one in five adults experiencing a mental health issue every year; and
- WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of people experiencing feelings of anxiety and depression; and
- WHEREAS stigma and the resulting discrimination is a primary obstacle to early identification and effective treatment of individuals with mental illness and their ability to recover to lead full, productive lives; and
- WHEREAS approximately half of chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14 and suicides is the second leading cause of death of people ages 10 to 24; and
- WHEREAS suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause among young adults; 90 percent of people who die by suicide had shown symptoms of a mental health conditions, according to interviews with family, friends, and medical professionals; In Maryland in 2021, 650 lives were lost to suicide; and
- WHEREAS Marylanders are ten times more likely to be forced out-of-network for mental health care than for primary health care – making it more difficult to find care and less affordable due to higher out-of-pocket costs; and
- WHEREAS more than 780,000 adults in Maryland are living with a mental health condition. That is 19 times the population of the City of Annapolis; and
- WHEREAS we come together with every citizen and community to help end the silence and stigma that for too long has made people feel isolated, alone and discouraged people from getting help; and
- WHEREAS through public education and working together to raise awareness, we can help improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN BUCKLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS,  
MARYLAND DO HEREBY PROCLAIM**

**May 2022**

**as**

**Mental Health Awareness Month**

**IN THE CITY OF ANNAPOLIS**



Gavin Buckley, Mayor  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
Set my hand and caused the Great Seal of  
the City of Annapolis to be affixed this 9th  
Day of May in the year of our Lord,  
two thousand twenty two.