

P roclamation

CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

Whereas: the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) was started in 1979 by a small group of families, and is now the nation's leading voice on mental health with more than 600 local affiliates; and

Whereas: since 1990 when Congress officially established the first week of October as Mental Illness Awareness Week, NAMI has worked to raise awareness of mental illness, fight discrimination, and provide support; and

Whereas: the 2022 theme of Mental Illness Awareness Week is “What I Wish I had Known” and will elevate the voices of people with lived experience as they talk about their recovery and what could have helped them on their journey to healing; and

Whereas: our local affiliate, NAMI Racine County, works to raise awareness, provides support and education, and advocates for people living with mental illness throughout our community; and

Whereas: 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year, 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14 and 75% by age 24; and

Whereas: suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. and the 2nd leading cause of death among people ages 10-34, and 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness; and

Whereas: people with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons, and 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition; and

Whereas: early identification and treatment have made recovery a reality for most people experiencing mental illness, and every community can make a difference in helping end the silence and stigma that for too long has surrounded mental illness and discouraged people from getting help.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Cory Mason, do hereby proclaim October 2-8, 2022,

Mental Illness Awareness Week

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Racine to be affixed.

Accomplished at the City Hall

this 20th day of September 2022.

Mayor