

# P roclamation

## CITY OF RACINE, WISCONSIN

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**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:** our local affiliate, NAMI Racine County, works to raise awareness and provide support and education throughout our community; and

**Whereas:** mental health is part of overall health and should be a priority, as it affects millions of people each year; 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 – including therapy, medication, and self-care – have made recovery a reality for most people experiencing mental illness; and

**Whereas:** 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 3-9, 2021,

### ***Mental Illness Awareness Week***

and I encourage public education and civic activities to shine a light on mental illness and fight stigma, provide support, and advocate for equal care.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021.

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Mayor