



MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY PROCLAMATION

In Support of Suicide Prevention in Skagway

WHEREAS: Alaska's suicide rate is twice the national average, impacting both urban and rural Alaskan communities with devastatingly high rates of suicide. Alaska's suicide rate is number one nationally, and Alaska is ranked number one in deaths of 15- to 24-year olds; and

WHEREAS: Skagway has high rates of many risk factors for suicide, which include previous suicide attempts, substance abuse, feelings of hopelessness or isolation, access to lethal means, physical or sexual abuse, history of mental health disorders such as clinical depression, chronic pain or serious physical illness, or incarceration; and

WHEREAS: survivors of a loss to suicide need support and understanding as they grieve for their loved one, and survivors of a suicide attempt too often suffer in the silence of stigma and shame, left without the support of family and community, and without ongoing treatment and recovery services; and

WHEREAS: help is available to Skagway residents struggling to cope, considering suicide, or grieving the loss of someone to suicide through Alaska's Careline, 1-877-266-4357 (HELP), and through Dahl Memorial Clinic behavioral health services, 1-907-983-2255; and

WHEREAS: the Municipality of Skagway is dedicated to building a safe community where all residents have a role in promoting suicide prevention, fostering resilience, committing to social change, and recognizing when additional support is necessary; and

WHEREAS: if you are not sure if someone needs help, simply ask: ask if they are thinking about ending their life; share that you care; keep them company until you connect them to Careline, the Clinic, or someone they trust who can offer support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Monica Carlson, Mayor of the Municipality of Skagway, do hereby proclaim that the Municipality of Skagway will actively support suicide prevention in the community, and will strive to support those who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide.

Monica Carlson, Mayor

David Brena, Assembly

Jay Burnham, Assembly

Steve Burnham Jr., Assembly

Tim Cochran, Assembly

Orion Hanson, Assembly

Dan Henry, Assembly

ATTEST:

Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

