



Proclamation

Whereas: The mental health of our citizens is essential to the continued well-being and vitality of our families, businesses and communities; and

Whereas: Mental health issues impact our children, families, and co-workers – all the people in our lives; and

Whereas: Early identification and treatment can make a difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

Whereas: Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-24, the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness; and

Whereas: Stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

Whereas: Greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

Whereas: Public education and civic activities can encourage positive mental health and help improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness; and

Whereas: The May 2019 observance of Mental Health Awareness Month will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and the stigma people with mental illness face, while delivering the message that, with proper treatment, recovery is possible;

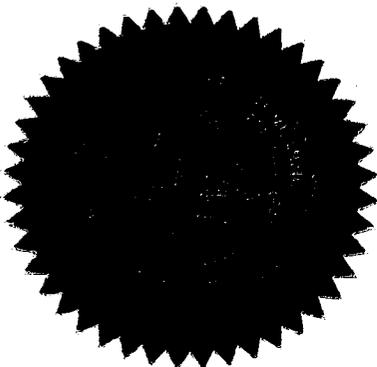
Whereas: May 5 - 11, 2019 marks Children's Mental Health Awareness Week; and

Now, Therefore, I, Robert M. Dyer, Mayor of the City of Virginia Beach, do hereby proclaim:

May 9, 2019 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

In Virginia Beach, and I call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Virginia Beach to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, to be affixed this Twenty-Sixth day of April, 2019.



Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer
Mayor