ANCHORAGE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

YAC Resolution No. 2022-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE SEPTEMBER 4 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2022, AS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE.

WHEREAS, the Youth Advisory Commission prioritizes increasing awareness of Mental Health and the importance that it has on Youth through the Mental Health Advocacy Program (MHAP); and,

WHEREAS, Alaska has the highest suicide rate per capita in the country; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the leading cause of death for Youth in Alaska, and Alaska’s suicide rate among Youth is three times higher than the national average; and,

WHEREAS, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have severely impacted Mental Health and have increased the suicide rate among Youth; and,

WHEREAS, more than 90% of suicide victims had depression or a diagnosable mental illness or substance abuse problems; and,

WHEREAS, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline recently changed its phone number to 988; and,

WHEREAS, the National Suicide Prevention Week has been held in the United States since 1975. National Suicide Prevention Week is held in correspondence to World Suicide Prevention Day which is recognized on the 10th of September; and,

WHEREAS, organizations such as You Are Not Alone (YANA), a youth-led group help to empower youth to appropriately care for and educate each other about suicide prevention, through increasing awareness of suicide in our community and schools.

Now, therefore by the Youth Advisory Commission, be it resolved:

1. The Mayor should consider the following steps:
   a. Recognize and establish September 4 – September 10, 2022, as National Suicide Prevention Week in Anchorage.