



OFFERED BY ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE

CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL

*AN ORDER TO EXAMINE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES,  
DE-ESCALATION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR  
SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON*

- WHEREAS, Suicide continues to be a significant public health crisis, affecting individuals and families, regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and
- WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of nearly 45,000 people, equivalent to approximately 123 Americans a day; and
- WHEREAS, More years of life are lost to suicide than to any other single cause except heart disease and cancer; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 in the United States; and
- WHEREAS, The suicide rate in Massachusetts increased by 35.3% from 1999 to 2016; and
- WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Boston High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 33% of students felt sad or hopeless and 12% seriously considered attempting suicide; and
- WHEREAS, Suicide is the second most common cause of death among college students, with approximately 1,100 lives lost to suicide every year; and
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- WHEREAS, According to the CDC, LGBQ youth are almost five times as likely to attempt suicide compared to heterosexual youth and, according to a national study, 40% of transgender adults have attempted suicide; and
- WHEREAS, According to a recent research study in the Journal of Evidence-Informed Social Work, more than half of people experiencing homelessness have had thoughts of suicide or have attempted suicide; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 veterans die by suicide each day; and
- WHEREAS, Suicide occurs in all demographic groups; and

**WHEREAS,** For every one death by suicide, there are 25 suicide attempts; and

**WHEREAS,** Untreated severe mental illness is a significant factor contributing to the rising rates of suicide in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Most suicides are preventable and creating awareness through healthy and effective conversations can decrease stigma, making access to mental health services more accessible *THEREFORE, BE IT*

**ORDERED** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services to assess the effectiveness of reaching the citizens of Boston regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background.

Filed in City Council: September 12, 2018