

# PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24;
- WHEREAS,** suicide is now the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the state of New York, and third leading cause of death among people from the age 15 to 24;
- WHEREAS,** in the United States, one person completes suicide every 15.2 minutes;
- WHEREAS,** it is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide);
- WHEREAS,** 50.2% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection;
- WHEREAS,** an increase in the overall suicide rate in our country was seen in 2007, representing a change in the recent pattern of stability or slight declines, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950's; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older;
- WHEREAS,** the stigma associated with mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide;
- WHEREAS,** statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible;
- WHEREAS,** organizations such as the New York State Office of Mental Health, Central New York Suicide Prevention Coalition and the American Association of Suicidology, which are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and bereavement services urge that we:
1. Recognize suicide as a national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a statewide priority;
  2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations and communities;
  3. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*:
    - A. Promote awareness that suicide is a public health problem that is preventable.
    - B. Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention.
    - C. Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention programs.
    - D. Develop and implement community-based suicide prevention programs.
    - E. Develop and implement community-based suicide bereavement support services.
    - F. Promote efforts to reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.
    - G. Implement training for the recognition of at-risk behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.
    - H. Develop and promote effective clinical and professional practices.
    - I. Increase access to, and community linkages with, mental health and substance abuse services.
    - J. Improve reporting and portrayals of suicidal behavior, mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment and news media.
    - K. Promote and support research on suicide and suicide prevention.
    - L. Improve and expand surveillance systems for suicide behavior.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Susan D. Feiszli**, Mayor of the **City of Cortland**, do hereby proclaim September, 2010  
as

## **NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be  
affixed the Great Seal of Cortland, New York this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of September, 2010.

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Susan D. Feiszli  
Mayor of **Cortland**, New York