

City of Ithaca Proclamation

Whereas, The Watershed Declaration was adopted on April 17, 2017 by a group of 18 governmental and non-profit organizations from Tompkins County, the City of Ithaca, and the campuses of Cornell University, Ithaca College, and Tompkins Cortland Community College; and

Whereas, The Watershed Declaration states: “We the assembled mental health stakeholders of the greater Ithaca community and Tompkins County recognize suicide as a serious public health concern. Today we renew our commitment to suicide prevention and pledge to intensify efforts toward saving lives and bringing hope to those struggling with suicide thoughts or affected by suicide loss”; and

Whereas, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, and the second leading cause of death for Americans aged 15-34; and

Whereas, the suicide rate in the United States increased 24 percent from 1999 to 2014; and

Whereas, suicide is a serious public health problem that causes immeasurable pain, suffering, and loss to individuals, families, and communities, and carries heavy economic costs for individuals, families, communities, states, and the nation; and

Whereas, there is strong evidence that a comprehensive public health approach is effective in preventing suicide; and

Whereas, our health and behavioral health systems, schools, and communities need to collectively work to prevent suicide deaths using the best available information and practices; and

Whereas, every member of our community can play a role in protecting their friends, family members, and colleagues from suicide; and

Whereas, our community needs to advance suicide prevention by fighting the stigma around mental health and seeking treatment for mental disorders; and

Now, therefore, I, SVANTE L. MYRICK, Mayor of the City of Ithaca, do hereby proclaim the city’s support for The Watershed Declaration; and call upon our citizens, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, health care providers, and educational institutions to raise awareness of Ithaca’s mental health support services, encourage those in need to seek treatment, honor those in our community we have lost too soon, and commit to an all-out effort to prevent suicide.

In Witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Ithaca to be affixed this the 7th day of June in the year 2017.




Svante L. Myrick, Mayor