



City of Winston-Salem

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WHEREAS: A sense of belonging and inclusion in communities is vital for the well-being and mental health of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); and

WHEREAS: Community-led spaces such as cultural hubs, areas in which people of a specific cultural background have come together to live, provide services, or connect with one another are vital sources of belonging that promote overall mental health and wellness; and

WHEREAS: Connection with one's culture and community is key to supporting overall mental health, and individuals who have strong connections to their communities have better mental health outcomes including lower rates of suicide, violence, and feelings of isolation; and

WHEREAS: No one knows a community better than those within the community itself; in order to move toward a more mentally healthy future, community-led action must be prioritized and sustained; and

WHEREAS: Advocating for mentally healthy environments must prioritize access for all; strong community support requires an overall understanding that every person is deserving of a healthy environment and has a role in the wellness of those around them; and

WHEREAS: The citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County are asked to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of BIPOC mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health through community-led action and organizing, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all BIPOC people with mental health conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 2023 as

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Given under my hand and seal this 20th day of June, 2023.

J. ALLEN JOINES

Mayor