

# Proclamation

Issued By The Mayor

## Declaring Mental Health Awareness Month

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to our overall health, and the importance of attending to it has become even more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively impacted people's mental health and created barriers to treatment; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition, including millions of adults and children who experience anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, many people with mental health issues may not know how to access resources for their needs; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2021, President Biden issued a proclamation to raise awareness of this issue of significant public concern and committed to ensuring that people living with mental health conditions are treated with compassion, respect, and understanding. He also committed to address the disparities that underserved communities, especially communities of color face, and work to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, quality, and evidence-based mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the recently enacted American Rescue Plan includes investments to promote mental health among the health care workforce, and the Executive branch is building on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act by integrating mental health and addiction treatment into school settings and homes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of San Leandro has gone on record to support efforts to address mental health and the emotional well-being of individuals and at-risk populations, and to support legislation to strengthen such services; and

WHEREAS, I share President Biden's commitment to ensuring that everyone knows they are not alone and that help exists, and I too want to see increased mental health support services made available for the public; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 City of San Leandro Recreation and Human Services Department Human Services Gap Analysis identified that mental illness and unmet mental health needs emerged as a theme in every stakeholder interview as part of the analysis, in particular in relation to youth and to single homeless adults and homeless parents with children; and

WHEREAS, the City Council proclaims that such mental health aid shall be provided in accordance with best practices and policies in future calls for service; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Paulene Russo Cutter do hereby declare May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month in San Leandro.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of San Leandro to be affixed this seventeenth day of May 2021.

