

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2020, Legislative Day No. 1

Resolution No. 2-20

Introduced by Mr. Volke

By the County Council, January 6, 2020

1 RESOLUTION declaring suicide a public health crisis in Anne Arundel County and
2 requesting that the Department of Health ~~take immediate steps to identify residents affected~~
3 ~~by mental illness and offer~~ ensure adequate treatment and services to help those affected
4 and at risk of death by suicide

5
6 WHEREAS, on December 19, 2019, the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
7 presented to the County Executive its preliminary report addressing the impacts of
8 gun violence in Anne Arundel County; and

9
10 WHEREAS, according to the Task Force, from 2013 to 2017 there were 209 deaths
11 in Anne Arundel caused by guns and, of those 209 deaths, 141 (67%) were deaths
12 by suicide; and

13
14 ~~WHEREAS, annual reports from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health~~
15 ~~show that the number of deaths by suicide in the County has been steadily~~
16 ~~increasing in number and in frequency over the last 7 years, and remains one of the~~
17 ~~top 10 causes of death in the County; and~~

18
19 ~~WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2016~~
20 ~~nearly 45,000 Americans aged 10 years or older died by suicide, making suicide~~
21 ~~the 10th leading cause of death and one of just three leading causes of death that are~~
22 ~~on the rise across the United States; and~~

23
24 ~~WHEREAS, the purpose of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, as set forth~~
25 ~~in Executive Order No. 9, was to research and compile data on gun violence in~~
26 ~~Anne Arundel County, investigate the circumstances of gun violence in the County~~
27 ~~that have occurred including where, how and why they occurred, and research how~~
28 ~~the public health system could be used to address individuals in need of behavioral~~
29 ~~health services who may be at risk to commit or be the victim of gun violence; and~~

30
31 WHEREAS, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health found that from 2014
32 to 2018 there were 363 suicide deaths with the three most common methods being:
33 guns causing 140 deaths (39%), hanging causing 138 deaths (38%) and illicit drugs,
34 alcohol and prescription drugs causing 50 deaths (14%); and

35
36 WHEREAS, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health found that from 2014
37 to 2018 suicide deaths have increased; and

1 WHEREAS, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health found that non-fatal
2 suicide attempts from 2014 to 2018 suicide attempts increased from 899 to 1,041;
3 and

4
5 WHEREAS, suicidal behavior is a complex process comprised of ideation, attempt
6 and completion and suicide and its causes are complex interactions of biological,
7 genetic, social, environmental, psychological and situational factors; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2017
10 over 47,000 Americans aged 10 years or older died by suicide, making suicide the
11 10th leading cause of death and one of seven of the ten leading causes of death that
12 increased from the previous year; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the evidence and data gathered by the Gun Violence Prevention Task
15 Force demonstrates that there is a public health crisis as it relates to the prevention
16 of death by suicide; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the county is committed to improving the health and well-being of all
19 residents; and

20
21 WHEREAS, ~~stronger and more effective~~ increased efforts to assist residents with
22 mental illness and reach those most at risk of death by suicide is an important
23 intervention ~~that can be done before gun violence occurs and is an important step~~
24 ~~in reducing deaths by gun violence in the County;~~ and

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26 WHEREAS, the County Council sits as the Board of Health pursuant to Section
27 553 of the County Charter; now, therefore, be it

28
29 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, that it hereby*
30 *declares suicide a public health crisis and requests the Department of Health to*
31 ~~*take immediate steps to identify residents living with mental illness and offer treatment and*~~
32 ~~*services to help those affected by mental illness and at risk of death by suicide*~~ *continue to*
33 *work with stakeholders to deliver services, expand awareness of this issue, reduce stigma,*
34 *and ensure access to care to help those affected by mental illness and at risk of death by*
35 *suicide;* and be it further

36
37 *Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to County Executive Steuart Pittman*
38 *and to Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D., Health Officer.*

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED: January 21, 2020

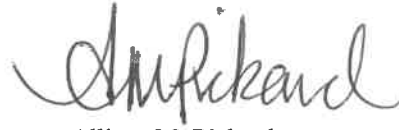
READ AND PASSED this 21st day of January, 2020

By Order:



JoAnne Gray
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 2-20, AS AMENDED, IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Allison M. Pickard".

Allison M. Pickard
Chairman