WHEREAS, September is recognized nationally as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month to raise the visibility of mental health and to promote suicide prevention resources in our community; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages 10 and 34 with approximately 49,000 people dying by suicide annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Paducah wants to destigmatize mental health and help connect people with appropriate support services; and

WHEREAS, 9-8-8 is the three-digit dialing code that connects those who call or text with the national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Trained counselors will listen, provide support, and make resource connections. 988 has expanded to provide specialized services for veterans, Spanish speakers, and members of the LGBTQI+ community; and

WHEREAS, The Paducah Board of Commissioners supports those who work in the fields of mental health, public safety, and education as they strive to make everyone feel validated and supported.

NOW THEREFORE, I, George P. Bray, Mayor of the City of Paducah proclaim September 2024 as

***Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness Month***

in Paducah and urge everyone to work together to create a community that promotes mental wellness and supports prevention efforts.