

RESOLUTION NO. 21-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CUPERTINO CITY COUNCIL
ESTABLISHING A SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY**

WHEREAS, the City of Cupertino recognizes suicide as a public health issue, evidenced by Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services data which shows that after a three-year decline in the suicide rate in the County, suicide rates increased in 2018 and 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Policy seeks to support the strategies recommended by the Santa Clara County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, educating the community on suicide risk factors, warning signs, how to report threats of suicide or those showing signs of becoming at risk, and removing the stigma about mental health treatment, recovery, and resiliency, is good public policy; and

WHEREAS, the Suicide Prevention Policy formalizes a process by which general resources are shared and safe messaging best practices are followed when communicating with employees and the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Cupertino adopts and approves the attached Suicide Prevention Policy, as the official suicide prevention policy of the City of Cupertino.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cupertino this 21st day of September 2021, by the following vote:

Members of the City Council

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

SIGNED: _____ Darcy Paul, Mayor City of Cupertino	_____ Date
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<p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Kirsten Squarcia, City Clerk</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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CITY OF CUPERTINO SUICIDE PREVENTION POLICY

Purpose

This policy reflects an ongoing commitment to increase awareness of suicide as a public health problem. The framework in this policy promotes the planning, implementation and evaluation of strategies for suicide prevention and intervention, as well as encouraging mental health care.

Policy

This policy shall advance current strategies and best practices of the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services, National Council for Behavioral Health, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the World Health Organization.

This policy shall call for the collaboration between the City of Cupertino and local and regional organizations, to provide information to employees and residents to gain a better understanding of the causes of suicide, learn the appropriate methods for identifying those at risk, and learn how to report threats of suicide or those showing signs of becoming at risk to the appropriate authorities.

The City will promote strategies and resources provided by the County as well as the [Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)¹ under the following guiding framework:

City Employees

Annually, the City Manager or designee will share with its current employees information that helps staff and gain a better understanding of the causes of suicide and learn the appropriate methods for identifying and preventing the loss of life. The Human Resources Division will work with the County's Behavioral Health Services Suicide Prevention Program to ensure that information shared reflects current research. The City shall provide a copy of this policy to all employees.

City Facilities

The City Manager or designee will develop public safety protocols governing a response to a suicide attempt on City facilities and will ensure that those protocols are reviewed annually. This review of protocols will seek to update internal procedures and address any needed support for employees that may witness such events. The City Manager or designee will further ensure an appropriate communications strategy is in place if a suicide attempt occurs in a City facility. The

¹ <https://www.sprc.org/>

communication strategy will reflect best practices for reporting on suicide, as provided by the County.

City Residents

The City will link to the [County's Behavioral Health Services webpage](#)² and actively collaborate with the County to disseminate information including event information and resources as they become available. The City Council will also raise awareness by recognizing National Suicide Prevention Month annually in September and support state and/or federal legislation aimed at increasing awareness and reducing deaths by suicide.

² <https://bhsd.sccgov.org/home>