

Mayoral Proclamation

CITY OF BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

WHEREAS, in South Dakota, suicide is the 9th leading cause of death and the 2nd leading cause of death for individuals ages 10–34; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, South Dakota reported one of the highest suicide rates in the nation, with approximately 20 deaths per 100,000 residents, well above the national average; and

WHEREAS, local leaders, schools, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and community members continue to work together to reduce stigma, promote protective factors, and expand access to mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, research shows that connectedness, early intervention, trauma-informed care, and reducing access to lethal means can save lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brookings supports the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, behavioral health programs, and community-based prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, during Suicide Prevention Month, we remember those lost to suicide, honor the resiliency of survivors, support families affected, and commit to a culture where seeking help is seen as a sign of strength.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor of the City of Brookings, do hereby proclaim September 2025 as:

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

And call upon all residents to learn the warning signs, to reach out with compassion to those in need, and to join in our shared responsibility of preventing suicide and promoting hope.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Brookings, this 9th day of September, 2025.

Oepke G. Niemeyer, Mayor