

# City of Philadelphia



## Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 250507)

### RESOLUTION

Declaring the Month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, Since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been recognized across the United States to raise awareness about mental health conditions, reduce stigma, and encourage people to seek support; and

WHEREAS, Mental health is a public health crisis. In Philadelphia, nearly 1 in 4 adults report experiencing frequent mental distress. Youth mental health is also in crisis, according to the Philadelphia Youth Risk Behavior Survey, over 37% of high school students reported feeling so sad or hopeless they stopped doing usual activities, and nearly 1 in 5 said they had seriously considered suicide; and

WHEREAS, Structural inequities and community violence contribute significantly to mental health outcomes in Philadelphia. Black and Latino communities face higher barriers to accessing timely and affordable mental health care, while also experiencing higher rates of trauma. In 2023, more than 1,400 lives were lost to drug overdoses in Philadelphia, over 80% of which involved opioids, often connected to untreated or undertreated mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia, through the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), supports a wide range of services to help residents manage mental health, including crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, school-based programs, and peer support. In 2023, DBHIDS fielded more than 25,000 calls to its crisis and support lines and expanded mobile crisis units to provide in-person, community-based care; and

WHEREAS, The month of May provides an opportunity to elevate the conversation around mental health, honor those working on the front lines of care, and remind all residents that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby declares the Month of May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia and calls

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*RESOLUTION NO. 250507 continued*

on all residents, institutions, and leaders to prioritize mental health, support those who are struggling, and help build a City where care, compassion, and connection are available to all.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 250507 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the fifteenth day of May, 2025.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Harrity

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Harrity, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, O'Rourke, Driscoll, Bass and Ahmad