

## Proclamation Honoring Castle Rock Mental Health Co-Responders and Crisis Clinicians

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Castle Rock, along with the State of Colorado, and the country as a whole, have continued to address the issues of mental illness and substance abuse, because a large number of people are affected directly and indirectly by these conditions, which often are co-occurring, and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 1 in 5 people in America will deal with mental illness in their lifetime, and

**WHEREAS**, the opioid epidemic continues to rage across the nation, with over 100,000 overdose deaths occurring annually, and

**WHEREAS**, many communities, towns, cities, counties and states have realized the need for additional resources to address these issues, specifically when individuals are experiencing crisis situations, and

**WHEREAS**, many of the above entities, including the Town, have identified an evidence-based and effective program called Co-Response, and

**WHEREAS**, co-response is defined as pairing a crisis-trained mental health clinician with a first responder — such as a deputy sheriff, police officer, fire officer, or paramedic/EMT — who respond as a team to intervene in varying levels of crisis, with the goal of diverting individuals from emergency room visits and arrest and jail, if possible. The response team connects individuals in crisis with necessary and effective resources such as counseling, access to medications, Medical Assisted Treatment for alcohol/drug addictions, and access to housing, food, basic necessities, and more, and

**WHEREAS**, the Castle Rock Police Department has had a co-responder unit, comprised of a specially selected CRPD officer and a clinician funded by Douglas County, since 2017 – a second team came online in 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, the CRPD Community Response Teams have responded to thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls for service;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it proclaimed by the Town of Castle Rock Town Council that the week of September 16-20, 2024, is Castle Rock Co-Responders and Crisis Clinicians Week. We extend our appreciation and gratitude to all of those working in these roles in Castle Rock and beyond and recognize their significant contributions to ensure the best possible outcomes to difficult situations.

As the Town Council, we also call upon Castle Rock residents and organizations to recognize, honor, and give thanks to these amazing professionals for their daily sacrifice and public service through the great work they do to assist those in need.

THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK TOWN COUNCIL, STATE OF COLORADO

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk

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