

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, mental illness, substance addiction, and co-occurring conditions often lead to homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests, as well as expensive and less-effective jail housing, broken families, suicide, homicide and community destruction, and

WHEREAS, the many issues created by mental illness, substance abuse and addiction are community problems, not just a problem for law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical services, 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 nonemergency calls for service; provided crisis intervention and conducted follow-up; composed hundreds of safety plans; and helped countless people get connected with the resources they desperately need for healthier living, including access to mental health treatment/counseling and other community resource services, and

WHEREAS, CRPD CRT personnel have shown exceptional excellence, dedication and service to help those in need, reinforcing how vital their work is to the Town of Castle Rock, and

WHEREAS, other local law enforcement agencies including the Douglas County Sheriff's Office and Lone Tree and Parker police departments have also initiated co-responder programs within their organizations, which has contributed to the overall success of co-response programs within and around Douglas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Town of Castle Rock Town Council that the week of September 18- 24, 2023, 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

MAYOR

ATTEST:

Town Clerk
