

RECORD OF RESOLUTION

Date Presented 1/25/2022

Sponsor Councilmember Brown Resolution No. 05-22 Date Passed April 12, 2022

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LACK OF AWARENESS OF MENTAL ILLNESS, ADDICTION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND CHILD ABUSE AS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES IN THE VILLAGE OF LITHOPOLIS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, mental health is just as important as physical health and is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being, and,

WHEREAS, a person's home should be a safe, healthy, and supportive environment, free from violence, victimization, abuse, and neglect, and,

WHEREAS, children have the right to a safe environment, good nutrition, healthcare, and education, and,

WHEREAS, mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse can affect persons indiscriminate of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status, and,

WHEREAS, mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting approximately one out of every four families and victimizing both the person afflicted with the illness and those persons who care for and love the person afflicted, and,

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in seven men will be the victims of severe domestic violence in their lifetime, and nearly half of all persons have experienced psychological aggression from a partner, and,

WHEREAS, a child is abused or neglected every 48 seconds in this Country, and about one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday, and,

WHEREAS, the negative impact of mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse affects home, schools, workplaces, and community environments, and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence and child abuse are not private family matters but are crimes, the consequences of which reach with devastating effects on our community, and,

WHEREAS, domestic violence and child abuse robs the victims of their health and happiness, and, in some tragic cases, their lives, and this abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects with lasting consequences, and,

WHEREAS, experiences of child abuse have been demonstrated to lead to increased risks of violence and crime in adulthood, and,

WHEREAS, a focus on prevention and early intervention efforts could greatly reduce the number of individuals experiencing serious mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse, and,

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse remains one of the greatest barriers to improving the lives of everyone in our community through treatment/assistance, and,

WHEREAS, negative perceptions about mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse are a significant factor contributing to the failure of persons to seek treatment/assistance, and some of those common concerns are stigma, culture, masculinity, exposure to violence, and lack of information and awareness, among many others, and,

WHEREAS, an environment of awareness and education of mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse in home, school, workplaces, and community environments is essential to the development of supportive approaches towards those who are affected by mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse, and,

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn has negatively affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for those already suffering with mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse, and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF LITHOPOLIS, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO;

Section 1. Council hereby declares the lack of awareness of mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse is public health crises in the Village of Lithopolis and recommits our full attention to improving the quality of life and health of our residents affected by mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Section 2. Council seeks to encourage persons with mental illness and addiction to seek treatment.

Section 3. Council seeks to encourage victims of domestic violence and child abuse to seek assistance.

Section 4. Council seeks to promote awareness, education, and understanding of assistance/treatment for mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Section 5. Council seeks to eliminate the stigma associated with seeking treatment/assistance for mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Section 6. Council is committed to ensuring that our community has resources available to help persons experiencing and healing from untreated mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Section 7. Council recommends that employees of the Village of Lithopolis undergo specialized training in the areas of mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Section 8. This resolution is hereby declared an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare in that Council recognizes that untreated mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse are public health crises in the Village of Lithopolis and this resolution shall be in full force and effect at the earliest date provided by law.

Attest/Date: Janita Brown
Clerk

Signed/Date: [Signature]
Mayor

Approved as to form: Jon M. Browning
Jon M. Browning

First Reading 1/25/22 Second Reading 2/18/22
Revised Second Reading 3/22/22 Third Reading 4/12/22
VOTE FOR 6 AGAINST 0

Referred to Special Committee on Mental Health 3/15/22
Return to Council w/changes 3/22/22