

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Adiel McKnight, Deputy Clerk of the Board

DATE: August 19, 2024

SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION and POTENTIAL ACTION** re: PROCLAMATION re: Overdose Awareness Day and Lowering the Flag for Friday, August 30, 2024

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdoses and to remember, without stigma, those who have died from overdoses. The campaign also is committed to supporting the safety, health and wellbeing of people who battle with addiction of controlled substances. In honor of those passed, Public Health has requested to lower the flag to half-staff.

ANALYSIS:

Jefferson County acknowledges the grief of the families and friends affected by substance abuse. In honor of those who have lost their lives to substance abuse, and the families and friends who have been affected by their loss, staff requests that the Courthouse flag fly at half-staff on Friday, August 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve a Proclamation re: Proclaiming August 31, 2024 as Overdose Awareness Day, and taking action to lower the flag to half-staff on Friday, August 30, 2024.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator


Date

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, no community in Washington State is immune to accidental or intentional overdose, and drug overdose deaths remain high across the state, impacting urban, suburban, and rural communities, and disproportionately affecting American Indian/Alaskan Native communities and marginalized populations; and

WHEREAS, in the last year nearly 3,381 people have died due to overdoses / suspected overdoses across Washington State including 4 reported in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Health Care Authority, Department of Health, and University of Washington-Alcohol Drug Abuse Institute, local health jurisdictions, community organizations, syringe-service programs, harm reduction services and pharmacies collectively distributed overdose reversal medication, Naloxone, to tens of thousands of individuals; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County acknowledges that there is a need to treat drug-related harm as a public health issue and invest in evidence-based practices that save lives and build communities; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County remains committed to raising awareness around drug overdose morbidity and mortality by reducing stigma through countywide initiatives related to education, prevention, treatment, and recovery support for substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, International Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity for all people in Jefferson County to grieve the loss of those who have died due to overdose, celebrate life, and commit to supporting the safety, health and wellbeing of people who abuse substances;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners, hereby proclaim August 31, 2024, as

Overdose Awareness Day

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Commissioners encourage all residents and visitors alike whose life has been impacted by substance use disorder to call the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511, available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the courthouse flag be lowered to half-staff in observance of Overdose Awareness Day on Friday, August 30, 2024.

PROCLAIMED this 19th day of August, 2024.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEAL:

Kate Dean, Chair

ATTEST:

Greg Brotherton, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board

Heidi Eisenhour, Member