



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of deaths among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24. Also, suicide is now the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of all deaths in the State of North Carolina and the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among people from the age 0 to 19 in Pitt County; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, one person completes suicide every 16 minutes, and a great many suicides are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 5 million people in the United States are survivors of suicide (those who have lost a loved one to suicide); and

**WHEREAS**, 51% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the overall suicide rate in our country has only slightly declined from the record highs in recent years, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s; and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma associated with the mental illness and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

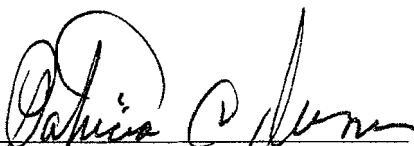
**WHEREAS**, organizations such as the American Association of Suicidology and REAL Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts, deaths, and the pain of survivors affected by suicides of loved ones, through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and bereavement services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the week of September 7 - 13, 2008 as

## SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

in Greenville and call upon citizens to recognize suicide as a public health problem.

This 5th day of September, 2008.

  
Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor