

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of all deaths in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide every 16 minutes and the overall suicide rate in our country has only slightly declined from 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 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. By supporting Suicide Prevention Awareness, we can combat an unwarranted sense of hopelessness and dismantle attitudinal, structural and financial barriers that affect the national, state and local suicide rates; and

WHEREAS, The El Paso community has come together to form the West Texas Suicide Prevention Coalition to arm health providers, social service agencies, educators and family members with the tools need to prevent loved ones from taking their own lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the County Judge and Commissioners Court of the County of El Paso that September 9 – 15, 2012 shall be known as:

“NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK”

SIGNED, this 10th day of September 2012

Commissioner Annabell Perez, Pct. 1

Commissioner Sergio Lewis, Pct. 2

Commissioner Tania Choze, Pct. 3

Commissioner Daniel R. Haggerty, Pct. 4

Veronica Escobar
County Judge