

Proclamation

Honoring Colorado Co-Responder Teams

WHEREAS, The Town of Berthoud is committed to providing support for those facing behavioral health issues in our communities; and

WHEREAS, behavioral health describes the emotions and behaviors that affect an individual's overall well-being including mental health disorders and substance use; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health estimates that more than one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness, and

WHEREAS, the widespread opioid use continues to grow across the nation, our state, and here in Larimer County, with over 100,000 overdose deaths occurring nationally as reported by National Institute on Drug Abuse, and

WHEREAS, behavioral health conditions may lead to homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests and have a serious negative impact on communities; and

WHEREAS, the many issues created by mental illness, substance abuse and addiction are community problems at the local, state, and national levels, not limited to law enforcement, fire services, and emergency medical staff; and

WHEREAS, many communities have realized the need for additional resources to address these issues more effectively when individuals are experiencing crisis situations and have identified an evidence-based and effective program called Co-Response; and

WHEREAS, the Co-Responder model pairs law enforcement, fire, and EMS with behavioral health professionals to intervene and respond to behavioral health-related calls for service; and

WHEREAS, these teams utilize the combined expertise of law enforcement and first responders with behavioral health professionals to de-escalate situations and help link individuals experiencing behavioral health issues to appropriate resources in their communities including counseling, access to medications, medical assisted treatment for alcohol and drug dependency, access to housing, food, basic necessities, and other similar resources; and

WHEREAS, Co-Responder Programs have expanded across the state of Colorado with statewide, and local support. Co-Responder Units in Colorado have embraced the philosophies of meeting those in need where they are to offer emergency access to treatment, connection to community resources, and on-going care for those in need throughout Colorado.

WHEREAS, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) Co-Responder Unit in partnership with SummitStone Health Partners, and the Town of Berthoud, and the Youth Crisis Response Team (YCRT), LCSO and Loveland Police Department in partnership with Thompson School District and SummitStone Health Partners, have responded to countless thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls for service, provided crisis intervention, conducted important follow-up, developed safety plans, assisted people to get connected with the resources they need for healthier living including access to behavioral health and other community resource services; and

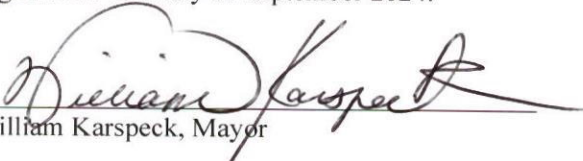
WHEREAS, these first responders have shown exceptional commitment, dedication, leadership, and passion to help those in need, reinforcing how vital their work is to the communities of Larimer County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Trustees for the Town of Berthoud, hereby proclaim the week of September 15-September 21, 2024, as Larimer County Co-Responders and Crisis Clinicians Week. We also, along with the Colorado Co-Responder Alliance (COCRA), and the International Co-Responder Alliance (ICRA) (both non-profit agencies dedicated to furthering and fostering co-response in Colorado, across the nation, and internationally, respectively), wish to express our appreciation and gratitude for member of the LCSO CRU Co-Responders working in the Town of Berthoud, recognizing the significant contributions of these dedicated first responders and mental and behavioral health co-responders, who routinely respond to non-routine, and sometimes dangerous situations involving persons in crisis and who work together to intervene and ensure the best possible outcomes through appropriate placement, safety planning, access to treatment, and connection to needed services.

As the Board of Trustees for the Town of Berthoud, we also call upon Larimer County residents and public and private institutions and organizations to specifically 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 BOARD of TRUSTEES of THE TOWN OF BERTHOUD, COUNTIES OF LARIMER AND WELD, STATE OF COLORADO

Signed this 10th day of September 2024.


William Karspeck, Mayor

