

APPENDIX F

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City of Palo Alto: Suicide Prevention Policy and Mental Health Promotion

The City of Palo Alto's City Council and City Administration understands the concern that suicide poses to its residents and employees/employers and shall have suicide prevention strategies and intervention procedures. Mental health care shall be promoted and there shall be support for community members in need.

This policy promotes planning, implementing, and evaluating strategies for suicide prevention and intervention and encouraging mental health care. To do this, City staff and residents shall better understand the causes of suicide and learn appropriate methods for identifying and preventing loss of life. This understanding and awareness shall include training in identifying those at risk (called gatekeeper training) and how to report suicide threats to the appropriate parental and professional authorities. This policy shall provide for collaboration with similar work by the Palo Alto Unified School District and other local and regional authorities, including Santa Clara County government.

Actions indicated by the community task force, Project Safety Net, or a similar future committee, shall be evaluated, agreed upon, and implemented. This policy shall advance current strategies including, but not limited to, parent education, media education, youth outreach, mental health support of students, means reduction, youth mental health screenings, and grief support amongst other actions. This education shall promote the healthy mental, emotional, and social development of residents and employees/employers including, but not limited to, youth understanding of problem-solving skills, coping skills, and resilience. Also an easily accessible list of mental health and suicide prevention resources shall be maintained.

The City Manager or designee shall establish a crisis intervention plan and procedures to ensure public safety and appropriate communications in the event that a suicide occurs or an attempt is made by an individual in the City of Palo Alto.

The City of Palo Alto Administration shall ensure that all staff members have been issued a copy of this suicide prevention policy and procedures. All staff are responsible for knowing and acting upon them.

Funds to implement this policy shall be provided, if available, and shall be sought through private donations and grant applications.

This policy shall be reviewed annually to confirm compliance and to make any necessary revisions.

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