

PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2020

WHEREAS, opioids are a class of highly addictive drugs used to reduce pain and include prescription opioids like oxycodone and hydrocodone, as well as illegal opioids like heroin; and

WHEREAS, overdoses can occur in people who have an addiction to substances, as well as those who do not, such as someone accidentally overdosing on prescription opioids after a surgery or an injury, an elderly person consuming too much of a prescribed pain reliever, a teenager experimenting with illegal drugs for the first time, or a child ingesting opioid pills or powders from a home medicine cabinet or other storage location; and

WHEREAS, as in many communities throughout the country, the national opioid epidemic poses a significant threat to public health and safety in Thomasville. Overdoses related to opioids are affecting more family members, neighbors and friends than ever before, and City staff and community partners are working to address this growing crisis through various efforts, including substance use disorder treatment resources and programs to help participants achieve and maintain recovery and live law-abiding lives; and

WHEREAS, residents can help prevent overdose deaths by being aware of the signs and knowing how to respond to overdose. The City has taken great measures to make Naloxone (Narcan) available for Thomasville residents through the Thomasville Police Department, Fire Department, and First-Responders. In addition, a permanent prescription drop box is available at the Novant Health Thomasville Medical Center, so residents can safely dispose of unused medicines and prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thomasville will recognize International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st, to call additional attention to drug overdoses – especially those involving opioids – and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and thereby bring awareness to the problem of opioid addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RALEIGH YORK, JR., Mayor of Thomasville, North Carolina, on behalf of the Thomasville City Council, do hereby recognize August 31, 2020, as:

"INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2020"

in the City of Thomasville, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have here unto set my hand and caused Seal of the City of Thomasville to be affixed this 17th day of August, 2020.

Raleigh York, Jr., Mayor
Thomasville, North Carolina