



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: SUICIDE PREVENTION
POLICY

DATE: February 28, 2020

Approved by:

Date:

2/28/2020

RECOMMENDATION

Accept staff recommendation and direct the City Manager to provide an update to the Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Service (PSFSS) Committee annually on the issue of suicide prevention and include strategies that will further promote the policy.

DISCUSSION

I would like to thank City Staff, especially Sara Zarate and Leland Wilcox, for all their hard work on this important issue. I would also like to thank all the community members who worked along my office these past three years to advocate for this policy. We should build on this momentum and continue to discuss future strategies and ideas to ensure that we are doing our part in implementing this policy.

As stated in staff's memorandum, suicides are the 10th leading cause in deaths in the United States. While the City does not provide mental health services, we should be a proactive partner in promoting and supporting interagency efforts to prevent future tragedies. Often City Services are the first point-of-contact for distressed residents seeking assistance and that is where we can be a compassionate hub to connect them with the support that they may need. Whether it is a police officer responding to a call for service, a young teenager browsing our city website, or even one of our own city employees - another tool made easily accessible to them is another step away from a potential loss of life.