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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR DISTRICT 6

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AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: April 21, 2022

To: Oakland City Councilmembers From: Councilmember Loren Taylor

Subject: May 2022 Mental Health Awareness Month

Colleagues on the Council:

I invite you to join me in recognizing May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness month in the City of Oakland. As the Councilmember for District 6, an area of the City that has suffered a disproportionate level of trauma due to high levels of toxic stress and adverse childhood events (ACEs), increased violent crime rates, disproportionate COVID-19 health outcomes, and financial instability, among other factors, I believe it is important to recognize that many of our residents are struggling with mental health issues, and we should do what we can to support them in finding swift, affordable, and accessible support. It is my hope that raising these issues each year will help both raise awareness and reduce the stigma of mental health in our community.

Recognizing Mental Health Awareness Month would be incomplete without also appreciating and celebrating the many organizations whose mission it is to support and help those suffering from mental health conditions. From professionally trained individuals to health and wellness practitioners, and the many other community members who provide respite and relief to those experiencing extraordinary challenges, we take this time to time to appreciate their efforts.

In light of the above, I respectfully request your support of this Resolution recognizing May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month and recognizing the incredible work of Oakland's mental health professionals and community mental health service providers and establishing mental health as a priority in the City of Oakland.

Yours in service of Oakland,

Loren Taylor

Councilmember District 6