



Proclamation

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 Ocala. 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; and

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, residents can help prevent overdose deaths by being aware of the signs and knowing how to respond to overdose, and the City has taken great measures to make Naloxone (Narcan) available for Ocala residents and the Ocala Police Department, Ocala Fire Department, and First-Responders, as well as provide permanent prescription drop box location and continue with the twice a year drug take back days so residents can dispose of unused medicines and prescription drugs; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2022, as:

"INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY 2022"

In the City of Ocala and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 31 day of August 2022.

Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala

