

# Proclamation

## DAY OF HOPE

**WHEREAS**, the Plano Independent School District's Hope Squad is a group of students nominated by their classmates as trustworthy individuals. The caring individuals meet regularly with trained Advisors to talk and learn about mental health. This innovative program reduces youth suicide through education, training, and peer intervention by breaking the stigma and silence that surrounds mental health; and

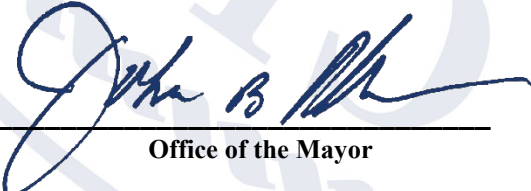
**WHEREAS**, PISD has Hope Squads on all 10 (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) campuses. Currently there are 108 PISD students who have been trained for this program. Hope Squad members have assisted 36 of their peers by providing resources, compassion, kindness, and empathy to any individual struggling in this way. Hope Squad members are truly changing the culture of mental health in PISD and our community; and

**WHEREAS**, students, families, businesses, community centers, and more come together for the annual Day of Hope event. This event is a national effort to empower youth struggling with mental health issues by offering them help and hope. In 2023 suicide was the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 24. There were 1,600,000 suicide attempts nationwide with 49,476 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, this campaign provides ideas and a framework for people to choose their own best way to participate in this endeavor within their communities while also normalizing conversations about mental health;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN B. MUNS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS**, do hereby proclaim **Thursday, February 13, 2025**, as **Day of Hope** in the City of Plano. The Plano City Council and I encourage all citizens to fully support PISD Hope Squad members in their valiant effort to make a positive and lasting impact in the City of Excellence by raising awareness about mental health issues and by reducing youth suicide in our city.



  
Office of the Mayor

