

RESOLUTION NO. R-023- 091

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
September 18, 2023- September 24, 2023, as Douglas County
Co-Responder Teams Week**

Whereas Douglas County, along with the State of Colorado, and the nation, have continued to address the issue of Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorder due to the large number of people affected directly and indirectly when these issues are not addressed, and

Whereas nearly 1 in 5 Citizens of Douglas County and nationally currently deal with a certain level of mental illness or will in their lifetime, and

Whereas mental illness, substance use disorder, and co-occurring conditions often lead to homelessness, criminal charges, and arrests as well as expensive and less effective incarceration, use of emergency departments, families in crisis, suicide, and violent crime, and

Whereas the many issues created by mental illness, substance use disorder and addiction are community problems, not just a problem for Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and

Whereas many communities, towns, cities, counties and states have realized the need for a more specialized response to address these issues and specifically when people are experiencing crisis situations, and

Whereas many of our first responders along with the County, have identified an evidence-based and effective program called Co-Response, and

Whereas Co-Response is defined as pairing a crisis-trained mental health clinician or navigator with a first responder such as a deputy sheriff, police officer, fire/EMS professional, who respond as a team to intervene during crises. The goal is to divert individuals from jail and emergency rooms and connect those in crisis or facing

homelessness with necessary and effective resources to address mental health, substance use disorder, housing, food, and other basic needs, and

Whereas beginning in 2017 with one team and continuing today, Douglas County, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Castle Rock Police Department, Lone Tree Police Department, Parker Police Department, Caring Communities of Colorado, Castle Rock Fire and Rescue, South Metro Fire and Rescue and the Douglas County School District have partnered to create the Community Response Teams, a Co-Responder program comprised of specially selected and trained deputies, officers, clinicians, resource specialists and EMS professionals, and

Whereas the Community Response Teams (CRT) have responded to over 10,000 emergency and non-emergency calls for service, representing over 7,5000 individuals, and have provided crisis intervention, developed safety plans, conducted important follow-up, and helped countless people get connected with the resources they desperately need, and

Whereas the Douglas County Homeless Engagement, Assistance and Resource Team (HEART) was created to provide a specialized co-response for individuals experiencing homelessness by pairing navigators with local law enforcement, and in 2023 have received 633 referrals and provided ongoing case management services to 89 individuals, and

Whereas the Community Response Teams and HEART Teams have shown exceptional commitment, dedication, leadership, and passion to help those in need and have reinforced how vital their work is to the communities of Douglas County, and

Whereas the work of CRT and HEART would not be possible without the continuing support of the County Commissioners, all law enforcement entities in the County, municipal partners, human services, faith partners and a host of other community resource partners,

NOW WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Douglas, Colorado do hereby proclaim the week of September 18-September 24, 2023, as Douglas County Co-Responder Teams Week along with Colorado and National Co-Responder Alliances, to express our appreciation and gratitude for all Co-Responders that serve those experiencing a mental health crisis or homelessness. We recognize the significant contributions of the members of the Community Response and HEART Teams as dedicated first responders who routinely

respond to non-routine, and sometimes dangerous situations involving persons in crisis and who work together to intervene and ensure the best possible outcomes.


As the Board of County Commissioners, we call upon Douglas County residents and public and private institutions and organizations to recognize, honor, and give thanks to these amazing professionals for their daily sacrifice, public service, and commitment to a safer community, through the great work they do to assist those in need.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 12th day of September 2023, in Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, COLORADO**

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BY: 
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ABE LAYDON, Chair



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ATTEST: 
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ROBERTA NELSON, Deputy Clerk