



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation

Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month – July 2021

WHEREAS, Bebe Moore Campbell was an accomplished African American author and journalist, advocate, co-founder of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Urban Los Angeles and national spokesperson for mental health education and support among individuals with mental illness and their families; and

WHEREAS, she was recognized for her tireless advocacy and for bringing awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities with the release of her New York Times bestselling novel, “72 Hour Hold,” and her children’s book “Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry;” and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the U.S. House of Representatives designated July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in her honor to enhance public awareness of mental illness, especially within minority communities; and

WHEREAS, mental illness affects 14% of Asian adults, 17% of Black adults, 18% of Hispanic/Latinx adults, 32% of multiracial adults, 44% of LGB adults; and

WHEREAS, trans adults are nearly 12x more likely to attempt suicide than the general population; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions do not discriminate based on race, color, or gender, however, a person’s culture and identity can make access to mental health treatment much more difficult; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of Minority and National Affairs for the American Psychiatric Association, approximately two-thirds of all people with a diagnosable mental illness do not seek treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, inadequate diagnosis, or no diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the month of July is a time to amplify NAMI’s message “You Are Not Alone” and to focus on the healing value of connecting in safe ways, prioritizing mental health, and acknowledging that it’s okay to not be okay.

THEREFORE, I KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the City Council, residents, and staff proclaim July 2021 as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month and recognize her dedication and commitment to influence communities to support mental wellness through effective treatment options, open access to mental health treatment and services, and improve community outreach and support for our family and community members.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2021.

Kate Stewart
Mayor