

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of their residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County has a demonstrated long history of commitment to diversionary programs and collaborative partnerships to address the needs of people with mental illness who come into contact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation started *Stepping Up* to encourage public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County joined *Stepping Up* on June 8, 2016 to show its commitment to working on this issue locally; and

WHEREAS, *Stepping Up* is hosting a Day of Action on May 16, 2018, for counties to hold an event or participate in local activities to share with constituents the progress they have made in addressing the prevalence of people who have mental illnesses in their jails; raise public awareness and understanding of this important issue; and emphasize their commitment to creating data-driven, systems-level changes to policy and practice to achieve their *Stepping Up* goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim May 16, 2018 as Mecklenburg County's *Stepping Up* Day of Action and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in activities planned for this date in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center.

Adopted this 1st day of May 2018.



Ella B. Scarborough, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

