

**WHEREAS**, the youth of Stillwater will determine the future strength of our country and be the bearers of our democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, youth need a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, depression, and crime, and youth need readily available resources to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the youth of Stillwater by offering access to immediate help and safety for young people seeking assistance and guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, designated locations where youth can get information and immediate help, Safe Place is found at businesses, such as restaurants, convenience stores, movie theaters, and community buildings such as fire stations, libraries, and public transportation vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of Safe Place is based on public/private collaborations between businesses, school systems, fire departments, law enforcement, and a network of volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, Stillwater is committed to demonstrate the importance of youth safety, prevention, and community responses to identified needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Place program must meet performance standards, relative to outreach and community relations, to receive direct federal assistance as set forth in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1,500 communities in 38 states administer the Safe Place program at more than 22,000 locations; more than 387,000 youth have been helped at a Safe Place location or received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information received at school and through community presentations; and

**WHEREAS**, since program inception in 1983, more than 15 million youth have been educated through National Safe Place Network's Safe Place outreach efforts, familiarizing them with the Safe Place sign and providing them with information about how to seek help in order to stay safe;

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations where youth can readily access the help they need.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, William H. Joyce, Mayor of the City of Stillwater, Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the week of March 20 through March 26, 2022, as:

**“NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK”.**

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**WILLIAM H. JOYCE, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**TERESA KADAVY, CITY CLERK**