

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fall River set to begin Activities to Mark Overdose Awareness Month with a Flag Raising Event

Recover Fall River and Gone Too Soon, two grassroots organizations composed of families impacted by addiction and overdose, are planning a series of events during the coming month to raise awareness and to remember lives lost to overdose.

Opioid overdose remains the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 50, and Fall River is among the Massachusetts cities most profoundly affected.

Historically, Recover Fall River has held an annual vigil, attended each year by hundreds of area residents. This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and guidance advising against large gatherings, the group is developing a series of activities that will provide family members an opportunity to grieve and reflect, while working to decrease the stigma of Substance Use Disorder.

On Monday, August 3rd, at 1:30pm, Mayor Paul Coogan will join with families and advocates in raising the purple flag outside of Fall River Government Center. By raising the purple flag and by lighting Government Center in purple, the City is acknowledging the significant impact overdose has had, encouraging residents to become more aware of issues related to addiction and overdose, and supporting the many individuals whose lives have been forever changed as the result of this devastating illness.

The event will consist of a brief message from Mayor Coogan, a message from an impacted family member, a prayer for our community, and the flag raising itself.

Details on coming events and activities will be forthcoming.