



# City of Galveston

## PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH STAFF REPORT

**Date:** February 19, 2025

**To:** City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** Barbara Ekelund-Sanderson,  
Executive Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Outreach

**Project location:** Menard Park (2222 28<sup>th</sup> Street) **Project:** Donation of Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench

**Request:** Consider for Approval the acceptance of a donation valued at \$1,500.00 from Josh's Benches for Awareness, in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, for a park bench that raises awareness of suicide prevention, at Menard Park.

### **Prior Council Action**

No Prior Council Action.

### **Background**

Josh's Benches for Awareness is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising awareness on mental health issues and promoting suitable resources to remove the negative stigma surrounding the receiving of help. The benches they build serve as physical symbols that represent any local campaign or movement surrounding mental health and are also safe places for to refer to for help. The benches are bright yellow so that whoever notices them and reads them will know that they are not alone and that there is help out there for them.

Staff was approached by the Walk Chairs for the annual "Hike For Hope Galveston" sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, with a request to accept a donation of a bright yellow park bench from Josh's Benches for Awareness, and to have that bench be placed at Menard Park. "Hike for Hope" is a nationwide campaign event from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention that provides an opportunity to raise suicide prevention awareness, and foster connections in local communities. The "Hike for Hope Galveston" event date will occur on March 22, 2025 at Menard Park this year.

Josh's Benches for Awareness are located nationwide throughout many communities and states, at parks, schools, and college campuses. There is one other bench located in Galveston at Texas A&M University.





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### Fiscal Impact Report

- **Total Cost.** N/A
- **Funding Source.** N/A

### Alternatives

Do not approve the acceptance of a donation valued at \$1,500.00 from Josh's Benches for Awareness, in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, for a park bench that raises awareness of suicide prevention, at Menard Park.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approving the acceptance of a donation valued at \$1,500.00 from Josh's Benches for Awareness, in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, for a park bench that raises awareness of suicide prevention, at Menard Park.

### Attachment(s)

Letter from the Walk Chairs of the "Hike for Hope Galveston" event  
Example Photo of Suicide Prevention Awareness Bench

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ekelund-Sanderson  
Executive Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Outreach



**Galveston City Council**  
**823 Rosenberg St**  
**Galveston, TX 77550**

Dear Members of the Galveston City Council,

I am writing to inform you about a generous donation from Josh's Benches for Awareness in collaboration with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Josh's Benches has graciously offered to donate a bench to be placed in Menard Park, the location of the Fourth Annual Hike for Hope which raises funds and awareness for mental health and suicide prevention.

Josh's Bench is a symbol of hope and remembrance, dedicated to the memory of those we have lost to suicide. The bench serves as a place for reflection, solace, and community support. We believe that placing this bench in Menard Park will provide a meaningful space for residents and visitors to find comfort and connection.

We kindly request the City Council's approval to accept this donation and to facilitate the installation of the bench in Menard Park.

Value of Bench: \$1500.00

Dimensions: 90 pounds, 2 feet by 5 feet long, yellow in color

Details: Benches are easy to assemble, takes about 20 minutes – two options for frames – free standing (to attach to cement or existing surface) or permanent post (dig two holes). The bench is made from HDPE recycled plastic lumber; the material doesn't rot like wood or rust like metal. It comes colored therefore it never needs repainted or restained. It is weather and graffiti resistant and we expect it to last for decades.

Thank you for considering this request. We are confident that this addition to Menard Park will be a wonderful addition to our community - promoting awareness and support for mental health and suicide prevention.

Sincerely,  
Diane Manley, Stephanie Waltman, Terri Sudduth  
346-266-4863 (cell phone – Diane Manley)

Hike for Hope Galveston – Walk Chairs  
[www.afsp.org/galveston](http://www.afsp.org/galveston)  
Josh's Benches for Awareness  
<https://joshsbenches.com/>

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

**If You're in Crisis and Want to Talk, Call 988**

**"You are Not Alone...Help is Available"**

[joshbeauches.com](http://joshbeauches.com)

[#yellowisforhello](https://twitter.com/yellowisforhello)