

CITY OF COACHELLA
CALIFORNIA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), commonly known as Lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease in which the immune system becomes overactive and attacks the body's own tissues, vital organs, and joints, leading to significant health complications including premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke; and

WHEREAS, Lupus affects more than five million people worldwide, with an estimated 16,000 new cases diagnosed each year in the United States. Approximately 90 percent of individuals diagnosed with Lupus are women, most often during their childbearing years (ages 15–45), although men, children, and teenagers may also develop the disease; and

WHEREAS, Lupus disproportionately affects African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and Asian communities, who are two to three times more likely to develop the disease and often experience more severe symptoms and complications and is one of the most challenging diseases to diagnose due to its wide range of symptoms, which may come and go, mimic other conditions, and lack a single definitive diagnostic test, resulting in significant delays in diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, many individuals living with Lupus endure years of symptoms and irreversible organ damage before receiving an accurate diagnosis, in part due to limited awareness among healthcare providers and the general public. Research into Lupus remains underfunded relative to the severity and prevalence of the disease, underscoring the urgent need for increased investment, scientific advancement, and public health attention; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness and expanding education about Lupus are essential to improving early detection, reducing health disparities, supporting individuals and families affected by the disease, and strengthening community understanding of its impact. Looms for Lupus continues to demonstrate outstanding leadership in raising awareness of Lupus, providing education, advocacy, and social support, and promoting access to quality medical care for individuals living with Lupus and their loved ones;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Frank Figueroa, Mayor Pro Tem and Council of the City of Coachella, by the power vested in us, do hereby recognize May 2026 as

Lupus Awareness Month

and encourage all residents to join in supporting efforts to increase awareness, education, and advocacy for those affected by Lupus.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Coachella, California to be affixed this 22nd day of April 2026.

Dr. Frank Figueroa, Mayor Pro Tem
City of Coachella, California