

PROCLAMATION

November 2024 as “Lung Cancer Awareness Month”

Whereas, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and Colorado, accounting for more deaths than colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 506 new lung cancer cases between 2017 and 2021 and 303 deaths due to lung cancer between 2018 and 2022 in Mesa County; and

Whereas, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 60%, but only 24% of cases are diagnosed at this early stage; and

Whereas, lung cancer screening for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography reduces mortality by 20% compared to chest x-rays, with a 24% reduction in men and 33% in women as shown by large trials; and

Whereas, funding for lung cancer research lags behind other cancers, and more research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment, particularly for women and minority populations; and

Whereas, lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as in women, and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

Whereas, African Americans have the highest incidence and mortality rates of lung cancer, with disparities in screening, diagnosis, and treatment seen across minority populations; and

Whereas, lung cancer in individuals who never smoked is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related deaths, causing 17,000-26,000 deaths annually in the US, with 60-70% of cases among women; and

Whereas, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause overall; and

Whereas, stigma surrounding lung cancer hinders early diagnosis, treatment, and funding for research, negatively affecting patients’ quality of life and awareness of risk factors other than smoking; and

Whereas, breakthroughs in lung cancer research are identifying genetic markers and developing new treatments, including immunotherapies and targeted therapies; and

Whereas, organizations like the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women’s Lung Cancer Forum are committed to educating and increasing screening rates in Colorado;

Therefore, We, the Fruita City Council, on behalf of Mayor Matthew Brehm, proclaim November 2024 as “Lung Cancer Awareness Month” in the City of Fruita, Colorado, and recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and health disparities, encouraging all citizens to learn about early detection through lung cancer screening.

Matthew Brehm, Mayor, City of Fruita

