

CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The City of Lake Worth Beach recognizes Hepatitis-C as a major public health issue, with many who become infected are unaware of their diagnosis unless accurately diagnosed through testing; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis-C is a liver disease caused by the Hepatitis-C virus (HCV) that typically produces no symptoms and over decades, it can lead to severe liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver cancer, with most of those infected being unaware that they have the disease. HCV is the most common chronic blood-borne infection in the United States, with an estimated 4.1 million Americans (1.8 percent of the population) being infected; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County ranked 3rd for hepatitis c for the state of Florida in 2017, posing increased public health challenges to our community; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, Florida reported 29,757 cases of Hepatitis-C, 47% of chronic Hepatitis-C cases are in individuals aged over 50 years, whereas 19 % of chronic Hepatitis-C cases are in individuals aged under 30 years and 37% of acute, or newly infected, Hepatitis-C cases are in individuals under 30 years of age and this is due in part to increasing rates of injection-drug use related to the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, The City of Lake Worth Beach recognizes Hepatitis-C is transmitted via blood, most commonly by injection-drug use, and, before 1992, by blood transfusion, no vaccine is available, and no medications have proven effective in preventing infection after exposure; however, it can be preventable through prevention education, risk-reduction education, and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis Awareness Month provides an opportunity for Monarch Health Services, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County and the City of Lake Worth Beach to raise public awareness about the impact of Hepatitis-C in our communities and to promote the importance of prevention, risk-reduction education, testing for, and treating Hepatitis-C.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BETTY RESCH, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 2021

as

HEPATITIS DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of May, 2021.

Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah M. Andrea, City Clerk