



A Proclamation by the Mayor

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children, and;

WHEREAS, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday, and;

WHEREAS, 46 children per day or 16,790 children per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S., and;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 40,000 children on active treatment at any given time, and;

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old, compared to 66 years for adults' cancer diagnosis, and;

WHEREAS, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease, and;

WHEREAS, on average there's been a 0.6 percent increase in childhood cancer reports per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall incidence increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years, and;

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening, and;

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial toxicity due to out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe, and;

WHEREAS, in the last 20 years only four new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer, and;

WHEREAS, the National Cancer Institute recognizes the unique research needs of childhood cancer and the associated need for increased funding to carry this out;

WHEREAS, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level including the American Childhood Cancer Organization are helping children with cancer and their families cope through educational, emotional, and financial support, and;

WHEREAS, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer, and; Whereas, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN POORE, MAYOR, AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF LA VERNIA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 2024 AS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN LA VERNIA, and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce childhood cancer significantly in years to come.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of La Vernia, Texas to be affixed at City Hall in La Vernia this 19th day of September, 2024.

Mayor Poore

City Secretary