

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## *Proclamation*

### **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS** Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and

**WHEREAS** thousands of new ALS cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS** the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

**WHEREAS** securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

**WHEREAS** the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries with the goal to make ALS livable and curable for everyone, everywhere; and

**WHEREAS** ALS Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT** the month of May is hereby recognized as **ALS Awareness Month** in the City of Charlottesville.

Signed and sealed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

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Juandiego Wade, Mayor

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Kyna Thomas, Clerk