

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Lupus Awareness Month

WHEREAS lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and

WHEREAS more than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this cruel and mysterious disease and each year over a hundred thousand young women, men and children around the world are newly diagnosed with lupus, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are underfunded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

WHEREAS there is no single test to diagnose lupus. On average, it takes nearly six years for people with lupus to be diagnosed, from the time they first notice their lupus symptoms; and

WHEREAS lupus strikes without warning, affects each person differently, and has no known causes or cure ; many physicians worldwide are unaware of symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and

WHEREAS there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus, and to increase awareness in communities across the U.S. and the globe of the debilitating impact of lupus;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT the month of May is hereby recognized as **Lupus Awareness Month** in the City of Charlottesville, a time when the lupus community comes together to call for increased funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public, and recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

Signed and sealed this 4th day of May 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk