

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## PROCLAMATION

### Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month 2024

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

**WHEREAS** every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS** 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** ALS has no cure; our commitment to accelerating the pace of discovery remains unwavering, fueled by the hope that one day ALS will be a livable disease for everyone, everywhere, until we can cure it; and

**WHEREAS** we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ice Bucket Challenge through a renewed commitment to galvanize public awareness and support funding leading to significant investments in ALS research; and the ALS Association, as the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally has committed over \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

**WHEREAS** ALS Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of the dire circumstances surrounding ALS; and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has on the person, their family and the community; and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Charlottesville City Council proclaims the month of **May 2024 as ALS Awareness Month.** We call upon the community to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

Signed and sealed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.