

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States and Virginia, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined. The 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is approximately 60%, yet only about 24% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage. Screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray; and

WHEREAS funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities; and

WHEREAS lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women; each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women than men will die from lung cancer; and

WHEREAS African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among the African American population; and

WHEREAS lung cancer in individuals who never smoked is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of individuals diagnosed with lung cancer who never smoked are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in people who never smoked is increasing in the US. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among individuals who never smoked and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall; and

WHEREAS the stigma surrounding lung cancer creates barriers to early diagnosis, treatment, and funding for research, has a detrimental impact on the quality of life of people diagnosed with lung cancer, and hinders awareness of and research into lung cancer risk factors other than smoking; and

WHEREAS lung cancer research is leading to breakthroughs in the identification of genetic alterations associated with lung cancer and in the development of lung cancer treatments, including immunotherapies and targeted therapies. Organizations working in Virginia such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum, are committed to educating about lung cancer and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that November 2024 is **Lung Cancer Awareness Month** in Charlottesville, Virginia, and I encourage all citizens to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

Signed and sealed this 4th day of November 2024.

Juandiego R. Wade, Mayor