



*City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado*

# Proclamation

**Whereas,** May is National Huntington's Disease Awareness month as proclaimed by The Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA); and

**Whereas,** Huntington's Disease (HD) is an inherited, fatal degenerative brain disorder that slowly destroys body and mind. HD symptoms include depression, mood swings, personality changes, slurred speech, memory loss, mental capability and lack of coordination, and over a period of time the ability to think, speak, walk and swallow will diminish until eventually those functions are no longer possible; and

**Whereas,** the onset of HD usually occurs between 30-50 years of age; however, it can strike at any age, including children (juvenile HD), and in the final stages the person becomes totally dependent on others for all aspects of care: presently there is no effective treatment or cure; and

**Whereas,** 1 out of every 10,000 persons has HD, and each child or sibling of a person with HD has a 50% chance of inheriting the defective Huntington's gene; and

**Whereas,** there are approximately a dozen families in Grand Junction and on the Western Slope affected by HD who are participants in the Western Slope HD Support group.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, J. Merrick Taggart, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim May, 2020 as

***"National Huntington's Disease Awareness Month"***

in the City of Grand Junction, Colorado to honor these local HD families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Merrick Taggart". The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

