



City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado

Proclamation

- Whereas,** Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States; and
- Whereas,** there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson’s disease, it is estimated that 930,000 people will live with Parkinson’s by 2020 and that number is expected rise to 1.2 million by 2030; and
- Whereas,** every year, about 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson’s, excluding the cases that go undetected; and
- Whereas,** there are millions of Americans who are caregivers, family members and friends greatly impacted by Parkinson’s disease; and
- Whereas,** the combined direct and indirect cost of Parkinson’s in the US including treatment, disability, and similar costs, plus lost income from an inability to work are estimated at \$25 billion per year; and
- Whereas,** medications alone cost an average of \$2,500 per year and therapeutic surgery can cost up to \$100,000 per person; and
- Whereas,** research suggests the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and
- Whereas,** there currently is no objective test, or biomarker, to diagnose Parkinson’s disease; and
- Whereas,** there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease and available treatments are limited in their ability to address patients' medical needs and remain effective over time; and
- Whereas,** the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and can include tremors; slowness of movement and rigidity; gait and balance difficulty; speech and swallowing disturbances; cognitive impairment and dementia; mood disorders; and a variety of other non-motor symptoms; and
- Whereas,** volunteers, researchers, caregivers and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson’s disease and their families; and
- Whereas,** increased research, education and community support services are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Traylor Smith, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

“Parkinson’s Awareness Month”

in the City of Grand Junction and call upon all citizens to educate themselves and become aware of this disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 20th day of March, 2019.



Barbara Traylor Smith
Mayor