

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, *asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting about 20 million people; and*

WHEREAS, *asthma is the leading cause of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for more than 14 million missed school days each year; and*

WHEREAS, *each year 2 million people are rushed to the emergency room and 5,000 people die from asthma; and*

WHEREAS, *asthma is a long-term, inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lungs constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing; and*

WHEREAS, *exposure to allergens and irritants such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke can bring on an asthma episode; and*

WHEREAS, *secondhand smoke worsens children's asthma in up to one million children; and*

WHEREAS, *there are simple steps people can take to reduce their exposure to environmental asthma triggers; and*

WHEREAS, *Steps to a Healthier U.S. Asthma Task Force and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraging Americans to identify and reduce their exposures to environmental triggers in homes and schools, and incorporate environmental controls into their asthma management plans.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Hill, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim May 2006, as

"ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Grand Junction and encourage all citizens to support the Healthier U.S. Asthma Task Force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 3rd day of May, 2006.

Mayor