Office of the Mayor
City of Fort Lauderdale

Proclamation

In Recognition of
Lupus Awareness Month
May 2016

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, including an estimated 100,000 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, lupus is a cruel and mysterious chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and

WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains unexplained; and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, there has only been one new drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus in 56 years and current treatments of the disease can have damaging side effects.

NOW THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **May 2016** as:

Lupus Awareness Month

in the city of Fort Lauderdale and urge each of our citizens to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Florida Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.

DATED this, the 17th day of May 2016.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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