



PROCLAMATION



Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month April 2018

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive, neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect approximately one million people in the United States and the prevalence will more than double by 2040;

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the economic burden of Parkinson's disease is at least \$14.4 billion annually, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6.3 billion;

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown;

WHEREAS, there is no objective test or biomarker for Parkinson's disease, and there is no cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease;

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and can include tremors; slowness of movement and rigidity; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking; cognitive impairment and dementia; mood disorders; and a variety of other non-motor symptoms;

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;

WHEREAS, increased research, education, and community support services such as those provided by the Parkinson's Foundation and other organizations are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today;

Therefore, I, Jerry Smith, Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2018 as **Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month** throughout the City of DeKalb and encourage all citizens to work together to raise awareness and understanding of this debilitating disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of DeKalb, this 26th day of March, 2018.




Jerry Smith, Mayor