

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. 15-0359**  
**Recognizing May 19<sup>th</sup> as “Hepatitis Testing Day” and July 28<sup>th</sup> as “World Hepatitis Day”**

**WHEREAS**, May 19<sup>th</sup> is National Hepatitis Testing Day and July 28<sup>th</sup> is World Hepatitis Day; Hepatitis C is recognized as the most common blood-borne viral infection in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis C has infected an estimated 70,000 Coloradans, as many as 4 million American residents (nearly 1 in 50 persons), and more than 130 million people worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer, and the number one reason for liver transplants in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, more Americans die of Hepatitis C than from HIV, making Hepatitis C one of the top preventable causes of death in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, as many as 17,000 Hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States; these rates are expected to peak between the years 2030 and 2035 at 36,000 deaths per year; and

**WHEREAS**, people born between 1945 and 1965 are 5 times more likely to be infected than other adults; more than 75 percent of all people with Hepatitis C in the United States are people in this age range, and many remain unaware of their status because they have not been tested for the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence of Hepatitis C disproportionately affects people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, 75 percent of infected persons do not show any signs or symptoms, leading the Hepatitis C virus to cause poor health outcomes and be labeled as “the silent epidemic”; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of individuals living with Hepatitis C infection can be cured of the virus through the advent of effective treatment options currently available on the market; and those cured through treatment are able to stop and even reverse damage to the liver caused by the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis C treatment costs are less than one-fifth the cost of liver transplants; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis C can be prevented; testing can identify existing infections; and early diagnosis and treatment can save lives, money, and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Hep C Connection is available as a statewide resource for education, testing, linkage to care, and other support services.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** The Denver City Council agrees that preventing and treating Hepatitis C is an important public health initiative that will improve the quality of life for Denver residents affected by the virus.

**Section 2.** The Denver City Council proclaims May 19<sup>th</sup> as Hepatitis Testing Day and recognizes July 28<sup>th</sup> as World Hepatitis Day.

**Section 3.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Nancy Steinfurth, Executive Director of Hep C Connection.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 18, 2015

\_\_\_\_\_  
President