

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. CP11-0541**

In recognition of Hepatitis C Awareness Day, July 28, 2011

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis C is recognized as the most common blood-borne viral infection in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis C has ever infected an estimated 85,000 Coloradans, as many as 4 million American citizens (nearly 2 out of every 100 persons), and over 200 million 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**, approximately 15,000 hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States and is expected to triple in the next 10 – 20 years; and

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds of hepatitis C virus cases are baby boomers and, if left untreated, it could lead to a major increase in upcoming Medicare spending; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence of hepatitis C disproportionately affects low-income minority communities; 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 “the silent epidemic”; and

**WHEREAS**, the projected direct and indirect costs of the hepatitis C epidemic, through 2019, is \$85 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, risk factors can be evaluated, hepatitis C can be prevented, testing can detect hepatitis C virus infections, and early diagnosis and treatment can save lives, money and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 Coloradans affected by the virus and will reduce Medicaid costs to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, July 28, 2011 is World Hepatitis Day.

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

**Section 1.** The Council hereby recognizes the importance of Hepatitis C Awareness Day, July 28, 2011.

**Section 2.** 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.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL July 25, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT