

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 13-0317 Declaring Friday, May 17, 2013 as Hepatitis Testing Day in Denver

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer, the number one reason for liver transplants, and is recognized as the most common blood-borne viral infection in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C has infected an estimated 85,000 Coloradans, as many as 4 million American citizens (nearly 2 out of every 100 persons), and over 200 million people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15,000 Hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States, more deaths than HIV, and it is expected to triple in the next 10 to 20 years with a projected direct and indirect cost of \$85 billion through 2019; and

WHEREAS, one in thirty-three baby boomers has Hepatitis C, and the incidence of the disease disproportionately affects minority communities, many of which may remain unaware of their status without increased screening efforts; 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 to be labeled as the “the silent epidemic”; and

WHEREAS, risk factors and testing can be evaluated to detect Hepatitis C virus infections, early diagnosis and new approved drug treatments can save lives, money and resources, thus making Hepatitis C one of the top preventable causes of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month, and Sunday, July 28th is recognized as World Hepatitis Day, and on May 17th at various locations in Denver, there will be free Hepatitis C testing.

**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 and that it will reduce Medicaid costs.

Section 2. That Denver City Council declares Friday, May 17th as Hepatitis Testing Day in Denver.

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, Hep C Connection.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 13, 2013

_____ PRESIDENT