

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 17-0974 Recognizing September 2017 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, a diagnosis of cancer at any age is disruptive to the lives of patients and their families; worldwide, it is estimated that approximately 300,000 children under the age of 19 years are diagnosed with cancer each year and approximately 80,000 will die from their illness; in the United States alone cancer kills more children under the age of 14 than any other disease; and

WHEREAS, statistically, there are 15,780 children between birth and 19 years of age diagnosed with cancer in America each year; and one in every 285 American children develop cancer before the age of 20; and

WHEREAS, there has been key breakthroughs in cases of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia and pediatric cancer care, there remain many types of childhood cancer with little hope for cure; the majority of children continue to receive chemotherapy drugs and treatment developed from the 1950s to the 1970s and specifically only three new drugs have been approved by the Federal Drug Administration in the last two decades to specifically treat childhood cancer; treatment is intense and generally includes surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy; and

WHEREAS, although there have been tens of millions of funding being allocated towards clinical trial research, there has been very little improvement in the overall survival rate of childhood cancer in the last decade; there are currently more than 380,000 childhood cancer survivors in the United States; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of adult survivors of childhood cancer experience late effects from their treatment; one quarter of which are considered severe to life-threatening and include treatment induced secondary cancers, lung and heart damage, infertility, endocrine dysfunction, cognitive impairment and other chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that funding and research be continued so that children with cancer could benefit from additional cancer therapies and drugs that lead to a greater number of cures; and

WHEREAS, this month, we pay tribute to the families, friends, health care professionals, and communities who lend their strength to children fighting childhood cancer and may their courage and experience move others to help pave the way for new cures and a brighter future for our children.

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

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver recognizes the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and encourages the City and County of Denver residents to affirm their commitment to fighting childhood cancer by donating time or funding into appropriate programs and activities to support the cause.

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 and that copies be transmitted to Crisandra Green and Jamie Bloyd, American Childhood Cancer Organization; Hope 4 Heroes; and the Contreras Family on behalf of Team Nathaniel.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 28, 2017

PRESIDENT