

PROCLAMATION

Parkinson's 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; and

WHEREAS, there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but it is estimated to affect 6.9 million people in the world, and that number is expected to reach 14.2 million by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There are millions of Americans who are caregivers, family members and friends greatly impacted by Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual economic burden of Parkinson's disease is over \$26.4 billion per year, and indirect costs to patients and family members total \$6.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown. There currently is no objective test, or biomarker, to diagnose Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address patients' medical needs and remain effective over time; and

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

WHEREAS, hope does exist for people with Parkinson's because there are therapies like intensive physical therapy and dedicated efforts in speech therapy that are proven to be neuroprotective and can help to slow down the progression of the disease, and

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. Increased research, education and community support services are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness and working together as a whole community we can help to ease the burden of this disease, support each other, and support government efforts to bring new and positive therapies, to more effectively gather new and relevant scientific data on people with all types of neurological disease, and to bring telemedicine to the communities that do not have specialists to help,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert L. Crowell, Mayor of Carson City, NV, do hereby proclaim April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.



Dated this 1st day of April 2018.

Robert L. Crowell, Mayor