

Proclamation

CITY OF RICHARDSON, TEXAS

- WHEREAS:** Lyme Disease is the fastest growing vector-borne disease in the United States with 476,000 new cases reported to the CDC each year, with no surveillance for chronic cases. The average patient goes two or more years before getting a proper diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS:** It is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is found in 45% of *Ixodes scapularis* or black-legged deer ticks in Texas. The risk of contracting Lyme disease can be year-round, and tick bites are nearly painless and can be from a tick the size of a poppy seed; and
- WHEREAS:** Lyme Disease is a complex, multi-system illness which if caught early can be treated effectively, but if left untreated, can invade the nervous system, heart and multiple organs of the body causing years of pain, suffering, severe disability, and even death; it can manifest as flu like symptoms, arthritis, migraines, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, MS, ALS, Alzheimer's, epilepsy, Parkinson's and other neurological disorders; and
- WHEREAS:** Ticks that carry Lyme Disease can also carry at least 19 other pathogens, many of them transmitted within minutes of being bitten, with one tick bite frequently resulting in multiple infections including bacteria, parasites, and viruses which can all be potentially fatal; and
- WHEREAS:** Twenty-Five percent (25%) of all cases of Lyme Disease are from children and the CDC reports it can be passed down from Mother to fetus or congenitally; and
- WHEREAS:** New science as well as treatment and testing guidelines have been released from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality National Guidelines Clearinghouse, and all doctors in Texas are encouraged to utilize these new guidelines to quickly diagnose and treat Lyme Disease; and
- WHEREAS:** Texas Lyme Alliance provides advocacy for patients of congenital Lyme, pediatric Lyme, and a treatment for all.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Paul Voelker, Mayor of the City of Richardson, Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2021, as:

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Richardson, and urge all citizens to visit www.TXLymeAlliance.org to learn more about this disease and its impact on victims and families, make a donation, or get involved.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 1st day of May 2021.

