

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing April as Parkinson's Awareness Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners adopts a proclamation recognizing April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

Item Summary:

April is National Parkinson's Awareness month. Each April, Parkinson's Awareness Month provides an opportunity for people across the nation to put the spotlight on Parkinson's disease, the second most common neuro-degenerative disorder. Parkinson's Awareness month encourages all citizens to learn about Parkinson's disease and its prevalence in our communities through events, activities, and education campaigns.

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive, neurological disease, and although the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person, they commonly can include tremors; slowness of movement and rigidity; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking; cognitive impairment and dementia; mood disorders; and a variety of other non-motor symptoms.

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States. Over one million people in America have Parkinson's disease, and 60,000 are diagnosed each year. In fact, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and it is estimated that the economic burden of Parkinson's disease is at least \$14.4 billion annually, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6.3 billion.

Within Wake County there are a number of support groups, programs, and healthcare practitioners that support people with Parkinson's and their care partners. Yearly in the fall, Wake County hosts the largest regional fundraiser highlighting Parkinson's disease called Moving Day® NC Triangle, a signature event of the National Parkinson Foundation. Funds raised at the walk support grants for local programs and initiatives. On October 1, 2017, Moving Day® NC Triangle will return to Cary's Booth Amphitheatre for its fifth year.

Attachments:

1. Parkinson's Awareness Month Proclamation