

**PROCLAMATION
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – MARCH 2021**

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is a disease that starts in the lower portion of one’s digestive system. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately one in 23 men and one in 25 women will develop this cancer at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer doesn’t only impact those who live with it — the disease also has ripple effects on their loved ones and communities; and

WHEREAS, Each year, colorectal cancer claims more than 50,000 American lives, making it the second leading cause of cancer deaths in our Nation. National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is a chance to bring greater attention to this terrible disease and to offer what families living through it need most: hope; and

WHEREAS, In this battle, hope and awareness are intertwined. Because the risk of death from colorectal cancer drops dramatically when the cancer is caught early, lives can be saved by calling attention to risk factors and increasing routine screening. This month is our chance to improve public understanding of colorectal cancer risk, inform people about screening recommendations, and set our sights on broadening prevention strategies, improving treatments, and finding a cure; and

WHEREAS, As with so many diseases, the best defense against colorectal cancer is early detection. Symptoms can include blood in the stool; stomach pain, aches, or cramps that do not go away; and weight loss without a known cause. But many cases have no symptoms, especially early in the disease, when colorectal cancer is most curable. A recent Government study estimated that if all 50-year-old adults were screened for colorectal cancer, approximately 35,000 deaths could be prevented; and

WHEREAS, That is why it is so crucial, especially for Americans over 50 or otherwise at increased risk, to receive regular screenings. And although the disease is relatively rare in younger adults, the incidence of colorectal cancer has been rising among this group. No matter your age, every American should take possible colorectal cancer symptoms seriously and bring them to the attention of a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, This year, the Colorectal Cancer Alliance’s “Dress in Blue Day” was March 5. The organization encouraged everyone to wear blue clothing or a blue ribbon to raise awareness of the disease and honor those who have been affected by it. The City of Troy will illuminate City Hall’s outside lights blue during the **Month of March 2021 representing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Troy hereby proclaims **March 2021 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** in the City of Troy and joins with all citizens, government agencies, hospitals, private businesses, non-profit organizations, and other groups to participate in activities that will increase awareness and prevention of colorectal cancer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Troy honors the memory of **Troy resident Jamie Samuelsen, husband of Christy McDonald, and devoted father to Caroline, Josh, and Catherine. Jamie’s** life was cut short at the age of 48 due to Colorectal Cancer on August 1, 2020. His family encourages everyone to hear **Jamie’s** lasting message of the importance of colonoscopies starting at the age of 40;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City of Troy will illuminate City Hall’s outside lights blue during the **Month of March 2021 representing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**.

Presented this 22nd day of March 2021.