

**In Recognition of
LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
May 2014**

- WHEREAS:** the health and well-being of the citizens of the Fort Lauderdale, Florida are of the utmost importance; and
- WHEREAS:** according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Lyme disease is a rapidly emerging infectious disease, with an estimated 300,000 new cases per year, 10x higher than previously reported; and
- WHEREAS:** in Florida, 673 cases of Lyme disease were reported from 2002 through 2011; and
- WHEREAS:** Florida is considered "endemic" for Lyme disease by the CDC; and
- WHEREAS:** Lyme disease is typically transmitted by black-legged ticks or lone star ticks, both of which are found in Fort Lauderdale; and
- WHEREAS:** Ticks infected with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases have been discovered in Fort Lauderdale. These ticks are carried by wildlife as well as domestic animals into the backyards and homes of the citizens of Florida, as well as sand dunes, outlying fields, and forests where citizens and tourists work and recreate; and
- WHEREAS:** when Lyme disease is not promptly diagnosed and/or properly treated, it can affect the brain, heart, joints, and other body organs. Lyme disease mimics many other diseases, and as a result, patients are often misdiagnosed with more familiar conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and more; and
- WHEREAS:** preventative measures including spraying clothing, shoes and skin with appropriate tick repellants; checking for ticks at least once per day; and proper tick removal aid in the prevention of the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **May 2014** as:

Lyme Disease Awareness Month

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and encourage all residents to participate in activities to support Lyme disease education and the funding of research programs to find a cure.

DATED this, the 20th day of May 2014.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

