

WHEREAS, November is National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is an irreversible and progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills. Symptoms usually appear after age 60, but many scientists now believe damage to the brain may begin decades earlier; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is currently neither preventable nor curable and according to the Alzheimer’s Association today there are 5.4 million Americans living with the disease – 5.2 million aged 65 and over and 200,000 with younger –onset Alzheimer’s. By 2050 as many as 16 million Americans will have the disease; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer’s to American society will total an estimated \$200 billion, including \$140 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, 15.2 million family and friends provided 17 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer’s and other dementia. More than 60 percent of the caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving high or very high; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosing of Alzheimer’s disease has improved significantly and several medications are now available for treatment. The Alzheimer’s Association has identified ten early warning signs that should prompt families to seek diagnosis and treatment – the signs are:

- memory loss that disrupts daily life;
- challenges in planning or solving problems;
- difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure;
- confusion with time and place;
- trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships;
- new problems with words in speaking or writing;
- misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps;
- decreased or poor judgment;
- withdrawal from work or social activities;
- and changes in mood and personality;

and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale recognizes individuals, families, friends, and caregivers dealing with the devastating effects of Alzheimer’s disease, the researchers and medical professionals who are seeking causes and a cure, and the educational programs and support services provided by Florida’s Alzheimer’s organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **November 2012 as:**

**National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month
& National Family Caregivers Month**

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do and encourage Fort Lauderdale citizens to become educated about Alzheimer’s disease, support the agencies working to find a cure for this disease and the family members caring for loved ones who are affected, and remember all those who have been lost to Alzheimer’s disease.

DATED this, the 6th day of November 2012.

**John P. “Jack” Seiler
Mayor**

