

**In Recognition of
March of Dimes 75th Anniversary
Prematurity Awareness Month**

- WHEREAS,** the March of Dimes Foundation is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** since its founding in 1938 by Franklin D. Roosevelt, the March of Dimes Foundation has been a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality; and
- WHEREAS,** the March of Dimes has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests like the polio vaccine, surfactant therapy for premature babies, and tests to identify life-threatening birth defects; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 4 million babies were born in the U. S. last year and the march of Dimes helped each of them through vaccines, research, education and breakthroughs; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 500,000 of those babies were born too soon, putting them at risk for severe health problems and lifelong disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and even death, and the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States is \$26.2 billion annually; and
- WHEREAS,** the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 9.6 percent in every state and community by 2020, including Broward County where our preterm birth rate is 13.7%, which will result in a healthier start for tens of thousands of infants; and
- WHEREAS,** the March of Dimes furthers its mission in Broward County and its cities through collaborative community partnerships and mission-driven programs like Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait, Healthy Babies, Healthy Business, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Family Support, medical grand rounds, quality initiatives at local hospitals, and its local community grant programs; and
- WHEREAS,** the March of Dimes funds its mission through thousands of families, individuals and businesses from the cities throughout Broward County who tirelessly volunteer, fundraise, advocate and donate annually to March for Babies, Signature Chefs Auction, Women of Distinction, and Prematurity Awareness Month to ensure the March of Dimes continues its important work.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **November 2013 as:**

Prematurity Awareness Month

in the City of Fort Lauderdale and do recognize the March of Dimes Foundation's 75th Anniversary, and do applaud its families, individuals and businesses who have worked together for stronger, healthier babies.

DATED this, the 5th day of November 2013.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

