

WHEREAS, millions of Americans are impacted by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which cause infection of the liver, including an estimated 806 new cases of HCV was reported in Florida in 2019 an increase of over 50% from 2018 and approximately over 2 out every 100,000 are living with HBV in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, greater than half of people living with viral hepatitis are unaware they are infected, thereby increasing their risk for severe health problems such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver transplant and death; and

WHEREAS, with immunizations, access to clean syringes, and early detection, Hepatitis B and C can be prevented, hepatitis B can be treated, and Hepatitis C can be cured, saving lives; and

WHEREAS, the current epidemic of opioid and other substance use in the state is increasing transmission of these viruses that are spread through sexual intercourse, blood, primarily intravenous, inclusive of intranasal drug use; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends all individuals over the age of 18 and pregnant women be screened for hepatitis C virus, at-risk populations and all people born in regions of the world where HBV is common be screened for hepatitis B virus, and routine vaccination against hepatitis A and B; and

WHEREAS, Monarch Health Services, in partnership with The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County provides education to the public and professionals on hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment, and treatment of all persons living with chronic hepatitis; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about the impact of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in our communities and to promote the importance of prevention, risk reduction, testing and treating.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shelly Petrolia, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission do hereby proclaim May 2022 as:

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

and urge all residents to join me in this special observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of May 2022.

**SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR**