

Proclamation

Lupus Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Systematic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly called lupus, is an acute, chronic, complex, often life-threatening autoimmune disease; and

WHEREAS, researchers estimate over 5 million people have been diagnosed with lupus or related diseases throughout the world and approximately 100,000 more are diagnosed every year; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that more than 1.5 million Americans and at least 5 million people worldwide live with some form of Lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus strikes women of childbearing age, and it affects all aspects of their lives; and

WHEREAS, women of color develop Lupus at a rate two to three times the rates that Caucasians develop Lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus impacts more than just the life of a patient, it affects their family, friends, coworkers, employers, and the community; and

WHEREAS, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to symptoms of other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatment is critical to the improvement of the quality of life and survival rate of people with Lupus; and

WHEREAS, there has only been one new drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for Lupus in 56 years, current treatments for the disease can have damaging effects and we recognize an urgent need to increase awareness in West Covina of the debilitating impact of lupus as a significant public health issue; and

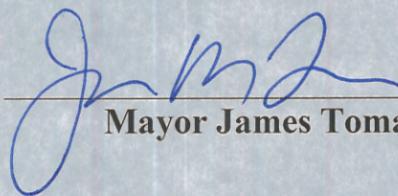
WHEREAS, Looms4Lupus strive to educate and increase public awareness, education and research, all which are key to winning the battle against Lupus; and

WHEREAS, major gaps exist in the understanding of the causes and consequences of Lupus.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James Toma, Mayor of the City of West Covina, do hereby proclaim May, 2016, as "**Lupus Awareness Month**" in the City of West Covina and further, wishes to Looms4Lupus every success in the future.

On this 17th day of May 2016





Mayor James Toma