

# City of Laguna Niguel



## Proclamation

### *LUPUS AWARENESS*

***WHEREAS,** Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system inexplicably and randomly attacks the body's own tissues and vital organs, including the kidneys, brain, heart, lungs, blood, skin, and joints. It is a leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and stroke among young women; and*

***WHEREAS,** Lupus directly affects 1.5 million in the United States and each year, thousands of people are newly diagnosed with lupus. The majority of those diagnosed are young people in the prime of their lives and 90 percent are women. Lupus disproportionately affects women of color; it is more prevalent in African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians than Caucasians; and*

***WHEREAS,** Lupus is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose because its symptoms come and go, mimic those of other diseases, and there is no single test that can definitively identify the illness. Yet early diagnosis and treatment usually lessen the progression and severity of the disease and are vital to preserving health and preventing further complications, organ damage, and death; and*

***WHEREAS,** many healthcare professionals are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before obtaining a correct diagnosis and medical treatment, demonstrating the need for increased public and professional awareness of lupus. Increasing public awareness and focusing public attention on lupus and its devastating impact on patients' lives will provide hope for a better future for those affected; and*

***WHEREAS,** Lupus LA works to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote education, research, social support, and quality medical care for our citizens who live with, or care for, someone who struggles with this disease. Let us recommit ourselves to supporting the research that will lead to better, targeted, treatments and a cure for this devastating illness that affects so many women in the prime of their lives.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mayor Fred Minagar, on behalf of the Laguna Niguel City Council, do hereby urge each of our residents to be aware of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote education, research, social support, and quality medical care for our citizens who live with or care for, someone who struggles with this disease.*

**Fred Minagar, Mayor**

**Office of the Mayor**

