



Office of the Mayor

Proclamation

Whereas:

The health and safety of all Ohioans is important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our state's families and communities; and

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, and joints. It is a leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and stroke among young women; and

WHEREAS Lupus directly affects millions worldwide; according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a conservative estimate suggests 322,000 Americans have definite or probable Systemic Lupus. Lupus is two to three times more common, and its symptoms tend to be more severe among African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Asians than Caucasians. 90% pf people who have Lupus are women; typically diagnosed during childbearing years, ages 15-44.

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 patient's lives will provide for a better future for those affected; and

WHEREAS: The Lupus Foundation of America-Greater Ohio Chapter 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.

NOW THEREFORE: I, Sharetta Smith, Mayor of the City of Lima, Ohio do hereby proclaim the month of May 2022 as

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

in the City of Lima, Ohio and urge all citizens to commit ourselves to supporting the research that will lead to better, targeted treatments, and a cure for this devastating illness that affects for many women in the prime of their lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of the City of Lima, Ohio, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May.

Signature of Sharetta Smith
SHARETTA SMITH, MAYOR
CITY OF LIMA, OHIO

