

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease affecting more than one million Americans, which includes many residents of the City of North Port with symptoms ranging from tremors, rigidity, and slowness of movement, as well as non-motor symptoms including depression, sleep disorders, and cognitive decline. Parkinson's disease is expected to nearly double by 2037; and

WHEREAS, there is no treatment or cure to slow or stop the disease. Research suggests the disease results from a combination of genetic and environmental factors, its' exact cause remains unknown. The economic burden is staggering - exceeding \$58 billion annually - with nearly half borne by the federal government, healthcare systems and the rest by American families; and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the residents of North Port are enhanced by increased awareness of Parkinson's disease and by the services provided by organizations dedicated to advancing research, prevention, education, improved care, and the development of new therapies for those living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, planned activities include the global "Spark of the Night", a lighting campaign on April 11th, World Parkinson's Day where we encourage local businesses, healthcare professionals and facilities, assisted and nursing homes, organizations, home-owners associations, and residents to participate in awareness by illuminating your outside lighting on buildings and landmarks in vibrant blue to raise awareness by a visible symbol of hope and unity showing support for individuals and families impacted by Parkinson's Disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

"Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month"

and urge all citizens to join me in supporting activities that raise awareness about Parkinson's Disease throughout the month of April, and to light up landmarks in vibrant blue on April 11th, 2026 World Parkinson's Day, to raise awareness and inspire action on prevention, early diagnosis, better treatments, expanded community support, and, most importantly, hope for a cure.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 2nd day of April 2026.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Vice-Mayor

David Duval, Commissioner



Phil Stokes, Commissioner

Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

ATTEST

Heather Faust, City Clerk