



City of Takoma Park, Maryland Mayoral Proclamation

Rare Disease Day - February 28, 2018

- WHEREAS,** rare diseases are defined as those affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and
- WHEREAS,** while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** thousands of residents of Maryland are among those affected by rare disease; and
- WHEREAS,** many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and
- WHEREAS,** millions of Americans have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as delay in diagnosis, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and
- WHEREAS,** while the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as “Lou Gehrig’s disease” and sympathetic to those affected, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often must spend time learning about the disease on their own, educating medical providers about the disease, and helping fund research efforts; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 28, 2018; and
- WHEREAS,** many patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing products to treat people with rare diseases, and others in the State of Maryland - including in Takoma Park - will participate in that observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the City Council, staff and residents, hereby proclaim February 28, 2018, as Rare Disease Day in the City of Takoma Park.

Dated this 21th Day of February, 2018.

**Kate Stewart
Mayor**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk