



City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Mayoral Proclamation

National Public Health Week Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** the week of April 4-10, 2022, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Public Health is Where You Are”; and
- WHEREAS,** since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and
- WHEREAS,** U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; U.S life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943.
- WHEREAS,** there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and
- WHEREAS,** a person’s health status can differ drastically by zip code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care.
- WHEREAS,** public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and
- WHEREAS,** public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and
- WHEREAS,** preventable risk factors such as such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 U.S adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.
- WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, on behalf of the Council, staff, and residents, do hereby proclaim the week of April 4-10, 2022, as **National Public Health Week 2022** in Takoma Park and call upon the residents of Takoma Park to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, **“Public Health is Where You Are.”**

Dated this 6th day of April, 2022.



**Kate Stewart
Mayor**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk