



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Pam
Foley

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 02/25/2021

Approved

Date

02/25/2021

SUBJECT: Approval of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month Sponsored by Council District 9 as a City Council Sponsored Special Event to Expend City Funds and Accept Donations of Materials and Services for the Event.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve March 2021 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the Tuesday, March 23 City Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms can include vision issues, tingling and numbness, pains and spasms, weakness or fatigue, balance problems or dizziness, cognitive problems, and this is just to name a few.

Launched in 2003, National MS Education and Awareness Month is observed in March of each year. It's a nationwide effort by many groups, that aims to raise the public's awareness of MS. The goals of this effort are to promote an understanding of the scope of this disease, and to assist those with MS in making educated decisions about their healthcare.

Everyone, not just those affected by MS, is invited to participate in a wide variety of activities that happen across the country. Throughout the month, these activities will help

get people involved in raising awareness and will help to broaden their own understanding of MS. I encourage everyone to participate in these events, which can be found on the [National MS Society Website](#), the [MS Foundation/MS Focus Website](#), and elsewhere online too.

The symptoms of MS are unpredictable and may increase in severity over time. This presents physical, emotional, and financial challenges families must face. Every single person with MS deserves empathy, understanding, and care.

The cause of MS is still unknown. Scientists believe that a combination of environmental and genetic factors contribute to the risk of developing MS. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease.

There's no cure for MS, yet. However, treatments can help speed recovery from attacks, modify the course of the disease and manage symptoms.

Worldwide, more than 2.3 million people have been diagnosed with MS. In the United States a recently completed prevalence study, funded by the National MS Society, has estimated that nearly 1 million people over the age of 18 live with MS.

Together, let's spread awareness, care, and understanding of this troubling disease.

ANALYSIS

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Councilmember Pam Foley will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on their Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 9, City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City's normal financial and budgetary procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the March 3, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda and the March 23, 2021 City Council Agenda.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Exempt, File No. PP12-080. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.

Exempt, File No. PP13-056, Activities associated with citywide litter clean-up activities.

Exempt, File No. PP11-046, Graffiti removal services.

Reviewed by:
TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.