

Town of Westfield

Westfield, New Jersey

PROCLAMATION

May 12 – 19, 2019 is National Women's Health Week

May 2019 is National Cancer Research Month

WHEREAS, May 2019 is National Cancer Research Month and May 12-19 is National Women's Health Week; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), "thanks to spectacular advances in cancer research, more than 16.9 million people in the United States and millions more worldwide are cancer survivors who are living with, through, and beyond their disease." Yet, despite the significant progress that has been made, cancer is a growing public health challenge that claims a half million American lives each year, highlighting the importance of cancer research to not only overcome the disease, but also to prevent it. The national campaign for National Cancer Research Month on social media falls under #ResearchSavesLives; and

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the United States and is the second leading cause of death. Every year, approximately 1 in 8 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2019, an estimated 268,600 American women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and 62,930 women with pre-invasive breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, 41,760 women will die in the United States in 2019 from stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, equivalent to 115 women a day. They are either among the 3 to 6 percent of women initially diagnosed with "denovo" stage 4, or the 30% who evolve to stage 4 from earlier stages. Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer has no cure. Life expectancy is 18 to 36 months from diagnosis due to the diseased cells spreading to other organs such as the brain, liver, and bones; and

WHEREAS, according to METAvivor, an internationally recognized non-profit established by a small group of proactive metastatic breast cancer patients, only 2 - 5% of money for breast cancer research is dedicated toward understanding metastatic breast cancer or finding solutions to extend the lives of MBC patients; and

WHEREAS, METAvivor works to educate the public about metastatic breast cancer and lack of funding for stage 4 treatment and aims to dramatically increase the current percentage of overall breast cancer research dollars from under 5 percent to 30 percent for the already metastasized patient. The national campaign for this initiative on social media falls under #DontIgnoreStageIV; and

WHEREAS, METAvivors of NJ Facebook group was founded in April 2019 to centralize metastatic breast cancer information, action and advocacy relevant to New Jersey communities; and

WHEREAS, the 20th annual National Women's Health Week kicks off on Mother's Day, May 12, and is celebrated through May 18, 2019. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health leads National Women's Health Week as a reminder for women to make their health a priority and build positive health habits for life. The national campaign for this initiative on social media falls under #FindYourHealth;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor Michelle W. Brindle, hereby encourage the residents of Westfield to join the national effort towards awareness of metastatic breast cancer and the need for more dedicated research funding. **BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that I encourage all women to join me in celebrating National Women's Health Week.


Michelle W. Brindle