

City of Holyoke Proclamation

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in 2022, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are numerous new lung cancer cases and deaths annually in Massachusetts, currently at a rate of 61 and significantly higher than the national rate of 58. Massachusetts ranks 29th among all states, placing it in the average tier. Over the last 5 years, the rate of new cases improved by 14%; and

WHEREAS, based on new research, in March of 2021, the United States Preventive Services Task Force expanded its recommendations for screening to include a larger age range and more current and former smokers. This will dramatically increase the number of women and Black Americans considered at high risk for lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts continued to be a leader nationwide in tobacco control efforts. In 2020, the previously passed law making the Bay State the first in the nation to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products went into full effect. Fortunately, there were no legislative efforts in 2021 to rollback this comprehensive measure; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts is providing comprehensive coverage for all tobacco cessation medication and types of counseling with minimal barriers to Medicaid enrollees.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of the City of Holyoke, on behalf of all our citizens, do hereby proclaim November as:

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

In the City of Holyoke and encourage all citizens to observe this month by educating themselves about the need for research on lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities while encouraging one another to learn about early detection through screening.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Official Seal of the City of Holyoke to be affixed.

Signed: _____

Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor

