

# Athens - Clarke County

## LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in Georgia in 2020, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the Georgia State Cancer Registry, there were 31,700 new lung cancer cases and 22,250 deaths because of lung cancer between 2012 and 2016 in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 59%, yet only 17% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large randomized trial; and

WHEREAS, funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities; and

WHEREAS, women diagnosed with lung cancer are more likely to be younger and never-smokers, lung cancer incidence and mortality rates in women are rising relative to men, more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer every year and by 2035, it is expected that more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

WHEREAS, organizations working in the Athens-Clarke County community, such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum, are committed to educating about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in Athens-Clarke County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kelly Girtz, Mayor of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia do hereby proclaim November as **LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** in Athens-Clarke County, and recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities, and encourage all citizens, to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Athens-Clarke County to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2020.



Mayor Kelly Girtz

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County



Proclamation