



A PROCLAMATION

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), is a devastating chronic neuroimmune illness that affects an estimated 20 million individuals worldwide and more than 7,000 Phoenix residents. Those who suffer from ME/CFS experience overwhelming chronic fatigue, pain, post-exertional malaise, headaches, immune disorders, dizziness, and impaired memory, effectively impairing every day activities others may take for granted. In fact, it is estimated that ME/CFS costs the United States economy about \$51 billion annually. In addition, children and young adults affected by the disease have had to drop out of school, severely limiting their potential.

Yet, despite its prevalence and ongoing efforts, there is no cure for ME/CFS, nor is there an explanation for what causes it. Given its mysterious nature and debilitating effects, it is critical that we educate the public, support those who are battling the disease, and advocate for continued medical research.

Phoenix is committed to supporting the thousands of residents who are affected by ME/CFS. We will continue to work every day to provide our residents with access to the resources they need to lead happy and healthy lives. By increasing public awareness – especially among educators, employers, and policymakers – as to the effects and challenges of ME/CFS, we can only improve the lives and prospects of these residents and further motivate support for continued and expanded medical research.

NOW THEREFORE, I, GREG STANTON, Mayor of the City of Phoenix, Arizona do hereby proclaim May 12, 2016 as

MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS, CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

and ask every resident to join me in raising awareness and supporting the thousands of individuals diagnosed every year.