

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Council President Annalisa Perea

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among children under the age of 19 in the United States, with approximately 10,900 children and adolescents newly diagnosed each year; and

WHEREAS, despite advancements in treatments and research, over 1,500 children in the U.S. lose their lives to cancer each year, with many others facing long-term effects from treatments; and

WHEREAS, families affected by childhood cancer endure significant emotional, physical, and financial burdens, requiring strong community support; and

WHEREAS, California accounts for over 2,500 new cases of pediatric cancer each year, including a considerable number from Fresno County, where hundreds of families are impacted by childhood cancer annually; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the bravery and resilience of children battling cancer, as well as the dedication of their families, healthcare providers, and researchers who strive towards cures and improved survival rates, now reaching 80% thanks to medical advancements, however too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure; and

WHEREAS, September is nationally recognized as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, urging Fresno's residents to raise awareness, promote education, and support organizations that provide essential care and conduct lifesaving research; and

WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that we dedicate this proclamation to one of our youngest constituents, Henry John Abels Rodriguez, who tragically passed away from Childhood Cancer. Henry was a courageous boy who cherished every moment spent with his family and found joy in listening to music, hugging his stuffed animals and playing with his beloved shake shakes. He will be sorely missed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Council President Annalisa Perea, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer, and the Fresno City Councilmembers encourage all residents, businesses, and organizations to join us in raising awareness, supporting families, and striving for a future where every child has the chance to grow up healthy and cancer-free. We do hereby proclaim the of September 2024 to be:

“Childhood Cancer Awareness Month”

In recognition of Henry John Abels Rodriguez

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, on this 26th day of September 2024.

JERRY P. DYER, Honorable Mayor

ANNALISA PEREA, Council President District 1

MIKE KARBASSI, Council Vice President District 2

MIGUEL ARIAS, Councilmember District 3

TYLER MAXWELL, Councilmember District 4

LUIS CHAVEZ, Councilmember District 5

GARRY BREDEFELD, Councilmember District 6

NELSON ESPARZA, Councilmember District 7