Griffin
Growing, TOGETHER

BY THE CITY OF GRIFFIN, OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

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MAY IS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ in the body; and

WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. This disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, While lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus as it also affects men and children. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains unexplained; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 1.5 million Americans have lupus; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 55,000 Georgians are living with lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes of lupus; and

WHEREAS, More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, The effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic, lifelong, and life-threatening disease, and despite its prevalence, it remains one of the least recognizable and most misunderstood diseases labeling lupus as *the cruel mystery*; and

WHEREAS, The City of Griffin joins the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America and other interested agencies and organizations in promoting awareness about Lupus research and education; now

THEREFORE: We, the Commissioners of the City of Griffin, of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2014, as "LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH" in Georgia and acknowledge May 10, 2014, as "WORLD LUPUS DAY" urging citizens to becoming knowledgeable about the impact of lupus on the human body, families and communities in Georgia.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Griffin to be affixed this twenty seventh day of May, two thousand fourteen.

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Ryan McLemore, Chairperson
City of Griffin Commission

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Kenny Smith, City Manager