

PROCLAMATION

DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is the most common fatal genetic disorder diagnosed in childhood, affecting approximately one in every 5,000 live male births each year; and

WHEREAS, the Duchenne gene is found on the X-chromosome, it primarily affects boys, however, it occurs across all races and cultures. Duchenne can be passed from mother to child, but approximately 35% of cases occur because of a random spontaneous mutation. In other words, it can affect anyone; and

WHEREAS, DMD is characterized by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness and is caused by a mutation in the gene that encodes for dystrophin. Because dystrophin is absent, the muscle cells are easily damaged; and

WHEREAS, symptom onset is in early childhood, usually between ages 3 and 5. DMD first affects the muscles of the hips, pelvic area, thighs and shoulders, and later the voluntary skeletal muscles in the arms, legs and trunk. By the early teens, the heart and respiratory muscles are also affected; and

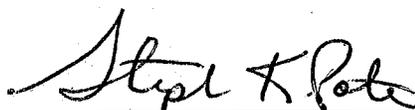
WHEREAS, until recently, boys with DMD usually did not survive much beyond their teen years, however, thanks to advances in cardiac and respiratory care, life expectancy is increasing and survival into the early 30's is becoming more common; and

WHEREAS, researchers are actively pursuing several strategies such as gene therapy, exon skipping, gene repair and many more. Human clinical trials are underway to address some of these in hopes to slow the progression and ultimately find a cure for DMD; and

WHEREAS, Watchung residents Limca & Vikas Jhaveri have made it their mission to raise awareness of this debilitating disease in honor of their son, Jaylen who was diagnosed 2 years ago when he was just 3 ½ years old, and on behalf and in support of all those young children afflicted with DMD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Stephen K. Pote, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung hereby proclaims to acknowledge and help raise awareness of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and commend the Jhaveri family for their dedication in making others aware of this terrible disease and for their work and support for a cure of DMD.

Dated: September 18, 2017



Stephen K. Pote, Mayor