



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a rare genetic disorder that affects the motor neurons in the spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness and progressive loss of movement; and

WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death in infancy, and it is estimated that 1 in 50 Americans is a gene carrier and that it highly affects some seniors who deal with inactivity due to physical, balance, cognitive, or other challenges that prevent a person from activity; and

WHEREAS, SMA crosses all racial, ethnic, and religious boundaries, and can strike anyone of any age or gender; and

WHEREAS, early detection and treatment are key to improving long-term health outcomes for people with SMA; and

WHEREAS; recent advances in research have led to the first FDA-approved therapies for SMA, providing new hope for families; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Watchung is pleased to join others around the nation to increase knowledge and awareness of SMA, promote continued research and development of lifesaving treatments for the disease, and support affected families in their roles as caregivers, educators, and advocates;

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Ronald Jubin, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, with the support of our Council, do hereby proclaim the month of August as **Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness** month and call upon our community this month to educate others, support ongoing research, and advocate for improved care, treatment, and resources.*

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D. Mayor

August 15, 2024