

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, globally, there are an estimated 40.8 million people who are living with HIV or AIDS. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 44 million people have died of HIV, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history; and

WHEREAS, started in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day; observed each year on December 1 and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and remember those who have died; and

WHEREAS, organizations and individuals across the world bring attention to the epidemic, endeavor to increase awareness and knowledge, speak out against HIV stigma, and call for an increased response to move toward ending the HIV epidemic; and

WHEREAS, 2025's theme is "Rethink, Rebuild, and Rise", representing a global opportunity to reflect, recommit, and take action to ensure that no one is left behind; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County is recognized as part of the national "Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE)" initiative which aims to reduce the number of new cases nationally by 90% by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and in partnership with community partners, healthcare leaders, and persons with HIV, Mecklenburg County Public Health launched the Getting to Zero Initiative in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County Public Health continues to engage persons living with HIV to ensure rapid linkage to HIV care, medical and behavioral health services, and supportive services through the federal Ryan White Initiative; and

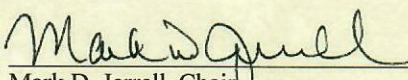
WHEREAS, prevention remains a hallmark of our response to the HIV epidemic and access to HIV education and PrEP have increased significantly, with a focus on communities most impacted by the HIV epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim December 1, 2025, as

"WORLD AIDS DAY"

in Mecklenburg County and call upon all citizens, parents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, schools and colleges in Mecklenburg County to support efforts that will provide education about HIV/AIDS and increase support for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. Through these efforts, together we can help End the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community.

This 2nd day of December, 2025.



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

