

# Mecklenburg County

## North Carolina

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, globally, there are an estimated 39 million people who are living with HIV or AIDS. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 40 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**, 2024's theme is "Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress" which demonstrates dedication and a commitment to harnessing the progress that has been made through global and domestic HIV programs over the last four-plus decades, working to ensure that no communities are 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 75% in 5 years and 90% in 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, with the support of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and in partnership with partners, community 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 HIV care, medical and behavioral health services, and supportive services through the federal Ryan White Initiative; and

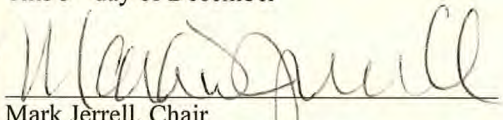
**WHEREAS**, prevention remains a hallmark of our response to the HIV epidemic and access to HIV education and PrEP have increased significantly, with a focus on communities most impacted by the HIV epidemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim December 1, 2024 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December



Mark Jerrell, Chair  
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

