

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 02-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SPRINGFIELD CITY COMMISSION DECLARING
NOVEMBER, 2002 AS NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Epilepsy, also known as Seizure Disorder, has afflicted mankind since the dawn of our species and has been recognized since the earliest medical writings, and;

WHEREAS, as long as 400 B.C., Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, repudiated ancient beliefs that Epilepsy was a visitation from the gods and sacred or that it was a curse from the gods that people afflicted with this disorder held prophetic powers. Hippocrates believed that Epilepsy was a brain disorder, and;

WHEREAS, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity or sensory phenomena. It is a sign that certain brain cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses, and;

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can be caused by injury to the brain, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumor, infection and brain hemorrhage. In sixty percent of the cases, the cause is unknown, and;

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age and at any time, and;

WHEREAS, more than two million Americans are afflicted with some type of Epilepsy. Of this number, 150,000 are Florida residents, and;

WHEREAS, with the administration of anticonvulsant drugs, two thirds (66.66%) of those afflicted with Epilepsy are drug controlled, and;

WHEREAS, lack of education about this disorder has contributed to age old myths, superstitions and prejudices, and;

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with this disorder is sometimes worse than the disorder itself, and;

WHEREAS, people who have Epilepsy make reliable and conscientious workers in job performance, productivity, safety, cooperation and attendance, and;

WHEREAS, studies carried out in the UNITED STATES over the past thirty years have indicated that of all disabilities, Epilepsy poses the greatest barrier to employment with unemployment rates estimated to fall between twenty and twenty-five percent.

WHEREAS, Epilepsy should not be a barrier to success. In addition to the normal requirements for success, a person who has Epilepsy needs a supportive environment and employers who are willing to give them an opportunity to become productive citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Springfield City Commission declares the month of November, 2002 as National Epilepsy Awareness Month.

ADOPTED at the regular meeting of the City Commission of Springfield, Florida on December 2, 2002.

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA

BY 
Robert E. Walker

ATTEST:


Rhonda J. Taylor, City Clerk