

PHILADELPHIA PROCLAMATION
Hep B United Philadelphia Campaign
May 2012

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is the world's most serious common liver infection that is caused by the hepatitis B virus and can lead to end-stage liver diseases such as cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver failure; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is spread through direct contact with infected blood such as from an infected mother to her newborn baby during pregnancy or delivery, exposure to unsterile needles or medical equipment, or unprotected sex; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is an equal opportunity virus that can infect individuals of all ages, ethnic groups and socioeconomic classes in urban, suburban and rural areas of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is one of the most common blood-borne infections in the Commonwealth, with approximately 5,000 new cases among Pennsylvanians reported each year, and up to 2,000 chronic Hepatitis B cases reported in Philadelphia each year; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B disproportionately impacts people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, with nearly one in ten Asian Americans being chronically infected with Hepatitis B; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is a "silent" infection with up to 70% of those who are chronically infected being unaware of their disease, and unable to be referred to appropriate care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B will result in the premature death of 1 in 4 chronically infected persons from cirrhosis, liver cancer or liver failure; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is found to cause 80% of all liver cancer and is one of the leading causes of cancer death in Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is completely preventable with a safe and effective vaccine that is known as the "first anti-cancer vaccine" since it can prevent liver cancer; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B can be diagnosed with a simple blood test and treated with approved therapies to control the disease and stop progression to liver cancer, liver failure and death;

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Philadelphia encourages and supports prevention of Hepatitis B through education and vaccination, and supports control of Hepatitis B through early diagnosis and appropriate medical care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Philadelphia encourages and supports the community-based **Hep B United Philadelphia** campaign to increase awareness and education about Hepatitis B to improve the health of those at greatest risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, do hereby proclaim support for the important "Hep B United Philadelphia" public awareness campaign and encourage city agencies and departments, health care and human service providers in the city to help increase awareness and knowledge about the causes, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Hepatitis B to reduce the morbidity and mortality of this serious chronic liver disease.