



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, infected ticks carrying the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi* which causes Lyme disease, continue to spread across North Carolina;

**WHEREAS**, the number of total number of Lyme disease and suspected Lyme disease cases reported to our state health department continues to rise each year with over nearly 900 cases reported in 2010, and the Center for Disease Control estimates that Lyme disease may be under-reported by a factor 10 to 1 over actual cases;

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Public Health now encourages physicians and health care professionals to consider the diagnosis of Lyme disease in patients who present the symptoms of infection and have no travel history outside of our state;

**WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other conditions and no reliable laboratory test can prove who is either infected or bacterial-free, which often leads to under-diagnosis or misdiagnosis;

**WHEREAS**, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptoms, characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes;

**WHEREAS**, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen blood vessels and kidneys. For this reason it is imperative that all who may be exposed to Lyme disease receive immediate treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the best solution to the threat of Lyme disease is awareness and education about the seriousness of the illness and the need to practice personal preventive techniques when engaging in outdoor activities - such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellant and proper tick removal; and

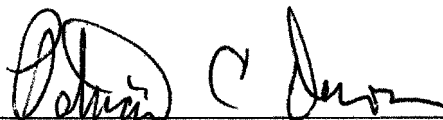
**WHEREAS**, the warm summer months are considered the most active time for ticks and when the majority of residents are exposed to tick during outdoor activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July, 2011 as

## **LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

in Greenville.

This 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

  
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Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor