



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY OF GREENVILLE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, National Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for healthcare decisions related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves, and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people have executed an advance directive, and it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public about advance directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of National Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a nation-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, the End of Life Care Coalition of Eastern Carolina and other organizations throughout North Carolina have endorsed this national initiative and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing healthcare choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2008 being recognized as National Healthcare Decisions Day, more citizens will have conversations about their healthcare decisions; more citizens will execute advance directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor of the City of Greenville, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2008 as

HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

in Greenville and commend its observance to all citizens.

This 31st day of March, 2008.

Patricia C. Dunn, Mayor