

Office of the Mayor  
City of Fayetteville  
**Proclamation**



**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to fight polio, and funded the development of two vaccines – still in use today – that virtually eliminated the crippling disease, and

**WHEREAS:** in 1958, having achieved its initial mission, the March of Dimes shifted its attention to the prevention of birth defects and through federal and state advocacy led the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects-monitoring programs and research centers, and

**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality and has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research in maternal and child health, which has led to the discovery of lifesaving products and tests such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth defects, and

**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes, a pioneer in the support of newborn screening, urged Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which in 2008 established national guidelines on the conditions states should include in newborn programs, and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for the core set of conditions, and

**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes is a long-time advocate for access to health care for women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they have access to private and public health coverage, and

**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes in 2003 launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the crisis of premature birth and help families have full-term, healthy babies, leading to the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers (PREEMIE) Act, enacted in 2006 and reauthorized in 2013 to expand research, education, and services to fight premature births, and

**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 5.5 percent in every state by 2030, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of infants, and

**WHEREAS:** 4,202 babies are born premature in the State of Arkansas, representing 10.8 percent of all State births and the State receives a grade of D and a disparity index ranking of 33 on the March of Dimes 2016 Premature Birth Report Card, and

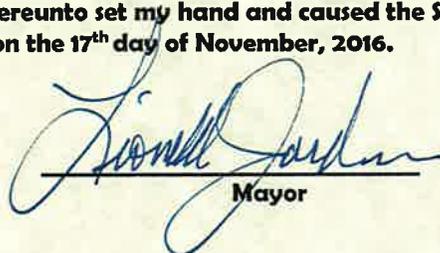
**WHEREAS:** the March of Dimes in Arkansas has worked extensively to promote access to health services and health coverage to reduce premature birth and promote health equity, and the March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state health policies and programs that affect women of childbearing age, infants, children and families, and

**WHEREAS:** the month of November is recognized as World Prematurity Awareness Month to bring about recognition of this global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Day across the United States, and

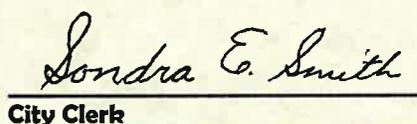
**NOW THEREFORE, I, Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim November 17, 2016 as**

**“PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY”**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

