

TOWN OF CLAYTON
PROCLAMATION – SEPTEMBER 2011 AS LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

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

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

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, even if the patient has no travel history outside of North Carolina; and

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; and

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

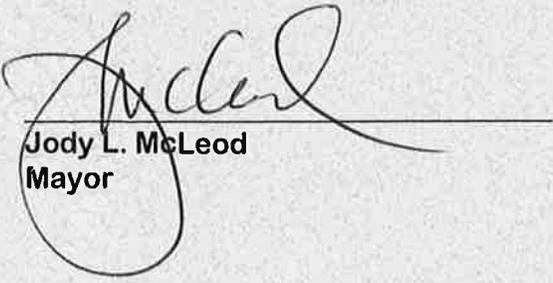
WHEREAS, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen blood vessels and kidneys. For this reason it is imperative that all who may be exposed to Lyme disease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

WHEREAS, the best solution to reduce the risk of contracting Lyme disease is awareness and education about the seriousness of the illness and the need for residents, especially children, to practice personal preventive techniques when engaging in outdoor activities - such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellent 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 ticks during outdoor activities. Therefore it is important that residents are aware of Lyme disease and the preventive measures they can take to minimize the risk of infection.

NOW THEREFORE the Honorable Mayor and Clayton Town Council proclaim the month of September 2011 as *Lyme Disease Awareness Month* and urge citizens to learn all they can about this disease and its symptoms to enable them to seek early medical treatment.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 6th day of September 2011, while in regular session.



Jody L. McLeod
Mayor