

City of DeFuniak Springs Proclamation

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month was established to recognize the existence of disparities in the health status among racial and ethnic populations and the need to eliminate these disparities thereby resulting in improved health for all populations, and;

WHEREAS, Despite great improvements in the overall health of the nation's population, health disparities remain widespread among members of racial and ethnic minorities, including a lack of access to preventive healthcare and lack of health insurance, and;

WHEREAS, Illness and chronic disease may be prevented and managed by maintaining a healthy weight, eating healthy nutritious meals, being knowledgeable of family history, and getting regular checkups and screenings, and;

WHEREAS, The focus of National Minority Health Month 2011 is "Bring It or Buy It - Make Lunch Healthy, Green and Good! In Schools, even Food Can Teach Us a Lesson" on Minority Health and School Food, and;

WHEREAS, The link to adult conditions now seen in children such as diabetes, extreme weight gain, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol levels are due in part to fast food consumption and lack of physical activity, and;

WHEREAS, A great number of minority children participate in the school lunch program; therefore, school food is a critical social determinant of the health of minority children, and;

WHEREAS, In Florida among racial groups in 2009-10, the Black (75.05%) and Hispanic (68.94%) populations had the largest percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, followed by the White (34.11%) population. The Hispanic population has experienced a significant increase in free/reduced price lunch eligibility over the last ten years. American Indian (52.42%), Asian (35.39%), and multiracial (53.86%) populations also have shown slight increases in their percentages of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, and;

WHEREAS, School meals should be a great teachable moment that links good nutrition and ability to perform well academically, a pathway to lifelong education on healthy eating, and the environmental impact of food choices, and;

WHEREAS, The City of DeFuniak Springs acknowledges that minority health is a priority for individuals, families, communities, the state, and the nation, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C. Harold Carpenter, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of DeFuniak Springs, Florida do hereby proclaim the month of April as:

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

In the City of DeFuniak Springs and do encourage all citizens to raise their awareness about the importance of nutrition in achieving optimum health and fitness for increased quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official Seal of the City of DeFuniak Springs to be affixed this 1st day of April of the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

C. Harold Carpenter
C. Harold Carpenter, Mayor

