

**CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
PROCLAMATION**

Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) is a rare neurodegenerative disorder that is caused by cell loss in certain areas of the brain and spinal cord that impairs your body's involuntary functions, including blood pressure, heart rate, bladder function and digestion; and,

WHEREAS, formerly called Shy-Drager Syndrome, MSA shares many similar symptoms of Parkinson's disease, such as slowness of movement, muscle rigidity and poor balance; and,

WHEREAS, people with MSA may have other difficulties with body functions that occur involuntarily including: urinary and bowel dysfunction, sweating abnormalities, sleep disorders, difficulties controlling blood pressure, sexual dysfunction, cardiovascular problems, and psychiatric problems; and,

WHEREAS, diagnosis of MSA can be challenging as many symptoms compare with those of Parkinson's disease, as a result some people are never properly diagnosed; and,

WHEREAS, the progression of MSA varies from person to person, but the condition does not go into remission. As the disorder progresses, daily activities become increasingly difficult; and,

WHEREAS, novel treatment options are being investigated but currently management options are very limited and there is no cure; and,

WHEREAS, people typically live 7 to 9 years after MSA symptoms first appear and surviving 10 years is rare; and,

WHEREAS, treatment for MSA includes medications and lifestyle changes that may manage symptoms. MSA is a progressive condition that in due course will lead to death; and,

WHEREAS, early detection and diagnosis is vital and may improve the quality of life as well as prolong life expectancy of an MSA sufferer; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary W. Manier, Mayor of the City of Washington, Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 2019, as MSA Awareness Month, and encourage all citizens to support awareness and education of this rare neurodegenerative disorder.

PROCLAIMED this 18th day of February, 2019.

Gary W. Manier, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Patricia S. Brown, City Clerk