

## PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, a stroke is the leading cause of death and a primary cause of long-term disability in the United States, affecting nearly 800,000 individuals each year; and

**Whereas**, a stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients and causing brain cells to begin to die within minutes; and

**Whereas**, early recognition of stroke warning signs and immediate medical attention can significantly improve outcomes, reduce disability, and save lives; and

**Whereas**, the acronym B.E.F.A.S.T - Balance/dizziness, Eyes and vision change, Face drooping, Arm or leg weakness, Speech difficulty, and sensory changes, Time to call 911 - serves as a simple and effective tool to help the public recognize the most common signs of stroke; and

**Whereas**, rapid treatment, including clot-busting medications and other interventions, is most effective when administered as soon as possible after symptoms begin; and

**Whereas**, many strokes are preventable through management of risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity; and

**Whereas**, increasing public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles, and improving access to timely medical care are critical to reducing the burden of stroke in our communities; and

**Whereas**, it is important to educate the public about stroke prevention, recognition, and response, and to support stroke survivors and their families.

**Whereas**, (your County) commits to participate and contribute to Stroke Smart efforts across its community, including county and city buildings, hospitals and clinics, pharmacies, health departments, fire and EMS departments, public and private schools, etc. to improve stroke literacy amongst residents.

**THEREFORE**, we, (your County) leaders title, do hereby proclaim on this day ( ) that (your County) will hereinafter be a Stroke Smart County.