



## THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR DOMENIC J. SARNO

*HOME OF THE BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME*

### PROCLAMATION

*Whereas,*

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure. Colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening and due to COVID-19, the total number of colonoscopies and biopsies performed declined nearly 90% by mid-April 2020 compared to the same period the previous year; and

*Whereas,*

Individuals born in the 1990s have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer as those born in the 1950s. It is estimated that over 145,000 people were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and over 53,000 people died of colorectal cancer in 2020; and

*Whereas,*

Colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are disproportionately higher among racial and ethnic minorities. The national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening. It is critical that all people, of all ages, know the signs and symptoms of the disease; and

*Whereas,*

Educating ourselves and loved ones on the importance of early detection and screening for Colorectal Cancer could be life-saving, especially since early onset of CRC is on the rise; and

*Whereas,*

We honor those who have lost their lives to CRC, especially Andrew "Andy" Andrejs Vezis, who succumbed to colorectal cancer on August 13, 2017 following a 3 year battle with the disease. Andy was a beloved member of our Springfield community whose adventurous spirit and enthusiasm for life is fondly remembered and deeply missed.

*Therefore, I, Domenic J. Sarno, Mayor*

of the City of Springfield, do hereby recognize

*March 1 – March 31, 2021*

*"Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"*

in our great city, and I strongly encourage all of our citizens to take notice of this event and participate suitably in its observance.

*Domenic J. Sarno*  
DOMENIC J. SARNO, MAYOR

*"Good Health &  
Good Bless!"*