

Office of the Mayor  
City of Fayetteville  
**Proclamation**



**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes Foundation is a pioneer in improving the health of infants and women of childbearing age by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality, and

**WHEREAS**, premature birth is the leading cause of death in newborn babies. Prematurity is defined as birth before 37 completed weeks of gestation. Premature babies who survive may suffer immediate complications and often face lifelong health problems, such as learning disabilities, vision and hearing impairment, and cerebral palsy, and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 5.5 percent in every state by 2030, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of infants, and

**WHEREAS**, there were 38,800 live births in Arkansas in 2014, and of those 4,202 babies were born preterm, representing 10.8 percent of all state births, that's 1 in 9 babies born too soon, and

**WHEREAS**, in Arkansas, preventing premature births could mean an annual savings of up to \$217 million, and

**WHEREAS**, prematurity and birth defects are the leading causes of infant mortality in Arkansas. Birth defects accounted for 1,101 of all infant deaths in Arkansas in 2012.

**WHEREAS**, Arkansas receives a grade of D on the March of Dimes 2017 (2016 data) Premature Birth Report Card representing 10.8 percent of all state births that are preterm, and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes in Arkansas has worked extensively to promote access to health services and health coverage that help to reduce premature birth and promote health equity, and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes in Arkansas looks forward to partnering with Mayor Lionel Jordan and the city of Fayetteville in response to the continued crisis of premature birth, and

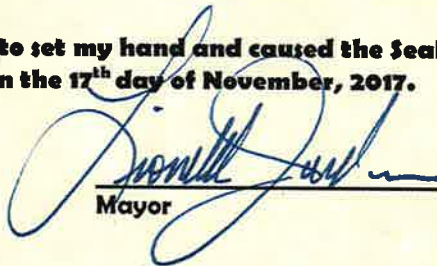
**WHEREAS**, the month of November is recognized as World Prematurity Awareness Month to bring about recognition of this global health crisis, and November 17 is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Day across the United States, and

**WHEREAS**, the March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state health policies and programs that affect women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, and

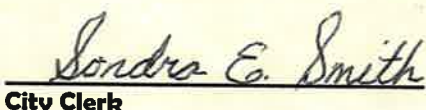
**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Lionel Jordan, Mayor of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas do hereby proclaim November 17, 2017 as

**"PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY"**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas to be affixed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

