



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAYOR LIGHTFOOT INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO HONOR WORLD  
PANCREATIC CANCER DAY IN CHICAGO**

*Chicagoans join cities, states and countries around the world in movement to raise awareness for Pancreatic Cancer*

CHICAGO—Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot today introduced a resolution honoring World Pancreatic Cancer Day in Chicago, which will be acknowledged on November 21, 2019.

“While other cancers have seen their survival rates increase, pancreatic cancer stands alone as the only cancer whose survival rate has gone the other way, leaving behind grieving husbands, mothers, siblings and children whose hearts will never be made whole, and whose lives will never be the same,” said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. “That only means we need to try harder and #DemandBetter to increase early-detection, research, and funding to find a cure for this terrible disease. We have a long road ahead of us, but we will succeed by coming together through events like World Pancreatic Cancer Day as we fight to make pancreatic cancer a thing of the past and keep our families whole.”

This year an estimated 1,184 people are expected to die from the deadly disease every day worldwide. Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of all major cancers, with approximately five percent of those diagnosed in the United States surviving five years. It is estimated that in the year 2025, over 500 thousand new cases of pancreatic cancer will be diagnosed globally.

“Having lost my own spouse to pancreatic cancer, I have personally witnessed the unimaginable pain and suffering caused by this disease, as well as the experienced the anguish it has left on my children, our family and loved ones,” said Alderman Roberto Maldonado, 26<sup>th</sup> Ward. “Unlike other cancer advocacy work, the fight against pancreatic cancer is predominantly undertaken by those closest to the victims—rather than its survivors—making our responsibility that much stronger and our role that much more urgent to raise awareness and make sure no one ever has to experience this horrible cancer ever again.”



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On World Pancreatic Cancer Day, people from around the world will unite to demand better in the fight against one of the world's toughest cancers. The worldwide day of recognition will bring together the global pancreatic cancer community from more than 80 organizations and over 30 countries.

The groups will work to raise awareness about the symptoms and risks of pancreatic cancer and the urgent need for early detection, as there is currently no standard screening test. Early diagnosis is key to attain successful outcomes in the treatment of pancreatic cancer, and patients diagnosed in time to undergo surgery are more likely to live five years and beyond, and the sooner a person is diagnosed, higher chance for eligibility for surgery.

Awareness campaigns will be implemented on social media following World Pancreatic Cancer Day on Twitter and Instagram @worldpancreatic and on Facebook at facebook.com/worldpancreaticcancerday. People are encouraged to use hashtags #WPCD and #DemandBetter. To learn more about how to take part in World Pancreatic Cancer Day visit <http://www.worldpancreaticcancerday.org/take-action/>.

Chicagoans are encouraged to make a difference by advocating for more government funding of pancreatic cancer research, especially for achieving earlier detection. Through a combined effort, Chicagoans can bring greater attention, awareness and better outcomes to this deadly disease.

The resolution will recognize World Pancreatic Cancer Day while showcasing its importance, and how Chicagoans can assist in fighting the world's toughest cancer.

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