CITY OF SPOKANE

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C is a bloodborne viral infection that affects the liver and often does not show symptoms. The hepatitis C case rate in Spokane is 42.8% higher than the Washington state average. Hepatitis C is a treatable condition with a cure rate of over 95%. Despite this, only 40.8% of people living with hepatitis C in Spokane County have been treated due to barriers such as unknown disease status because of lack of screening or diagnosis, stigma, and lack of access to or engagement with healthcare. All Spokanites aged 18 and older should be screened for hepatitis C at least once in their lifetime, and more often for people with risk factors; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane Hepatitis C Workgroup, which brings together public health and healthcare organizations to address barriers to care and pursue opportunities around increasing hepatitis C screening and treatment as routine care, asks that the Spokane community continue the work of raising awareness and connecting Spokanites to hepatitis C services. We ask that public health professionals carry on hepatitis C investigations and linkage to care and provide evidence-based prevention recommendations. We ask that healthcare providers remain committed to routine screening and treatment of patients. We ask that healthcare institutions actively reduce barriers to care and increase outreach to ensure that patients can complete treatment; and

WHEREAS, July 28th is globally recognized as World Hepatitis Day, additionally the Governor's Directive 18-13 commits Washington state to eliminate hepatitis C by 2030:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of the City of Spokane, on behalf of the people of Spokane, do hereby proclaim July 28, 2025 as

HEP C FREE SPOKANE DAY

in Spokane and encourage the public to act by seeking hepatitis C screening and treatment with their healthcare provider.

I, Lisa Brown, Mayor of Spokane,
do hereunto set my hand and
cause the seal of the City of Spokane
to be affixed this
21st day of July 2025.

Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown
Mayor