



City of Columbia  
A Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW) is a time of recognition for the approximately 300,000 medical laboratory professionals and 15,000 board-certified pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care; and

**WHEREAS**, NMLPW has been observed for almost 36 years and currently there are thirteen professional medical organizations sponsoring this year's celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, over the passed 35 years the goals for NMLPW have been to recognize these professionals' dedication their vital contributions to the field, to call the public's attention to the medical laboratory professional's role in patient care, and to enhance their overall image; and

**WHEREAS**, as a critical component of one of this nation's largest industries, the dedicated efforts of laboratory professionals often go unnoticed by the general public, as well as by the very institutions employing their services; and

**WHEREAS**, with the public now demanding increased health care quality and professional accountability, organizations representing practitioners of this critical science have a responsibility to ensure that the public is well informed about clinical laboratory competency; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond meeting this public need, the celebration of NMLPW helps increase recognition for the profession as it improves the individual practitioner's sense of self-worth; and

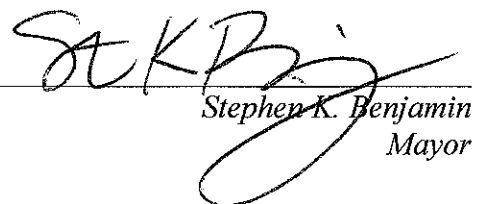
**WHEREAS**, laboratory test results are vital to the diagnosis and treatment of illness and disease and comprise an estimated 70% of the patient's medical records; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 10 billion laboratory tests are performed in the United States each year and 12,200 new laboratory professionals will be needed annually to meet the growing need of the world's population, while only 4,000 to 6,000 graduates will join the workforce each year;

**NOW, THEREFORE** I, Stephen K. Benjamin, Mayor of the City of Columbia, of the great State of South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim April 24-30, 2011 as

**National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week**

in the City of Columbia and encourage all citizens to participate wholeheartedly in its observance.

  
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Stephen K. Benjamin  
Mayor