

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a potentially fatal inflammatory disease that can appear in almost any organ in the body, and although the lungs are affected in more than 90% of patients, the disease often attacks the heart, eyes, central nervous system, liver and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, once thought rare, sarcoidosis is now known to be common and affects people of all ages and races worldwide, and some research shows that genetic and environmental factors may have a role in the formation of this disease with bacteria, viruses or chemicals triggering it in those with the right genetic predisposition; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, it is most common in African Americans and people of European descent, particularly Scandinavian, with most studies indicating a higher disease rate for women; and

WHEREAS, the month of April was declared **National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month** by the United States Congress in 2008 and has been designated across the county and abroad in an effort to help promote sarcoidosis awareness, education and further research efforts; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease, little is known about who is susceptible and the cause remains unclear; and with increased research, discovering the cause, improving treatment and finding a cure may well be within reach; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Janine's Sarcoidosis Outreach Foundation (JSOF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving care for sarcoidosis patients and promoting more research into a cause and possible cure, and its mission is to raise awareness of sarcoidosis and its health issues through educational campaigns, strengthening patient and physician relationships, providing support through group meetings, telephone and email contacts, and helping empower sufferers to become advocates for themselves, thus helping patients to cope while dealing with this disease over long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, during National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, the Tampa JSOF will host several events to bring awareness to the Tampa community about Sarcoidosis including a Health Fair, Church Visit, and its *3rd Annual Sarcoidosis Rally* held on April 5th at Al Lopez Park which will include a Balloon Launch and the recognition of many community organizations and individuals for their outstanding community service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2014 as

"SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to help support this effort by increasing awareness of this disease and providing support to those suffering with its effects.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of March, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor