

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, seizures and epilepsy are major national health problems with experts informing us that two in ten persons will have at least one seizure during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity or sensory phenomena, and is a sign that certain brains cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses; and

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy is a common and diverse set of chronic neurological disorders characterized by seizures, and although in approximately 60 percent of the cases the cause is unknown, it often can be attributed to brain tumor, lack of oxygen at birth, injury to the brain, infection or brain hemorrhage; and

**WHEREAS**, seizures affect almost 2.5 million individuals in the United States of America, and more than 300,000 people in the state of Florida, with 30,000 of those children and adults living in West Central Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, 200,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed each year in the United States with children and the elderly affected in almost equal proportions and approximately 22,000 Americans die each year from non-stop seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Florida Epilepsy Services**, established in 1973, is a private, non-profit organization that raises awareness and educates persons with epilepsy, families and caregivers, community organizations, businesses, and school personnel about the medical disorder, and its mission is *creating a better future and environment for persons affected by epilepsy*; and

**WHEREAS**, the supportive programs and services provided by Florida Epilepsy Services continue to promote healthy lifestyle choices for persons with seizure disorders, and help individuals and families better cope with the effect of this medical condition, and during Epilepsy Awareness Month, the organization will participate in the Great American Teach-In and will host a Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser.

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

## **“EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting Florida Epilepsy Services and healthcare professionals in their efforts to improve the lives of persons affected by epilepsy.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor