

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, in the United States of America, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers and the fourth leading cause of cancer death. In 2014, an estimated 46,420 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and 39,590 will die from the disease, with approximately 2,890 of those deaths occurring in the state of Florida alone; and

**WHEREAS**, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 73 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and within the first five years of diagnosis the survival rate is only six percent; and in our nation, African-American citizens have the highest incident rate of pancreatic cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in early detection, treatment methods, or survival rates in the last 40 years; and it continues to be the least funded among the top five cancer killers, constituting approximately only two percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* was signed into federal law, which calls on the National Cancer Institute to develop a scientific, or strategic plans, for pancreatic cancer and other hard to treat and deadly cancers, whereby providing the direction and guidance needed to make true progress against these diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Pancreatic Cancer Action Network** is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for this devastating disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the good health and well-being of the residents of our community are enhanced by increased awareness about pancreatic cancer, and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and their affiliates in Tampa, Florida support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer as well as honor those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure. On Saturday, November 8, 2014, the organization will host the *PurpleStride Tampa Bay 5K Run & Family-Friendly Walk* at the Spa Beach Park in St. Petersburg, Florida, joining cities across the nation in an effort to raise needed funding and awareness.

**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

## ***"PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"***

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts to raise awareness, develop early detection methods, treatments and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor