

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, Myeloma or Multiple Myeloma, is an incurable rare blood cancer of the bone marrow that currently affects more than 100,000 people in the United States of America, with an estimated 20,000 new cases diagnosed each year and approximately 10,000 individuals will die from the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Myeloma is also called Multiple Myeloma because the cancer can occur in more than one location and it is uncontrolled growth of plasma cells in the bone marrow, and the disease can lead to anemia, infections, bone lesions, vertebral compressions, osteoporosis, severe pain, and kidney dysfunction; and

**WHEREAS**, because Myeloma is a rare disease, often diagnosis is delayed, therefore postponing vital treatments that include chemotherapy, radiation, stem cell transplantation and other therapies, and if it is detected early patients can lead long and productive lives; and

**WHEREAS**, currently there is no cure for Myeloma patients, although some important advances have been made, and continued awareness, investment and innovation is critical to achieve early life extending diagnosis and treatments, and hopefully an eventual cure; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1989, the **International Myeloma Foundation** is an advocacy organization that serves the Myeloma community globally by focusing its efforts on education, research, support, and awareness and its Statement of Principles include *Prevention, Innovation, Access, and Early Approvals of New Treatments*; and

**WHEREAS**, the good health and well-being of the residents of the Tampa, Florida community are enhanced by increased awareness about Multiple Myeloma, and locally the **Tampa-St. Petersburg Multiple Myeloma Education Group**, established in 2008, supports those patients and their families in our area currently battling the disease, and is committed to bringing about awareness, education, and a cure.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March, 2015 as

## ***MULTIPLE MYELOMA 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 about Multiple Myeloma, develop early detection methods, treatments and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor