

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive, neurological disorder and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, the fourteenth leading cause of death in the United States, it is estimated that between 500,000 and 1,500,000 individuals live with Parkinson's disease in our nation, with the prevalence expected to be more than doubled by the year 2040; and the economic burden is at least \$14.4 billion annually, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, although research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression is still unknown and no objective test or biomarker has been established, and often people are misdiagnosed because the symptoms vary among patients including tremors, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, constipation, skin problems, speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems, dementia, mood disorders such as depression and anxiety, and sleep disruption; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease and some medications can create additional problems for those with Parkinson's disease, and local, regional, state and national researchers, medical professionals and volunteers are working to improve the quality of life for persons living with Parkinson's disease and their families

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of the city of Tampa are enhanced by their awareness of Parkinson's disease, and increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and, ultimately, a cure; and

WHEREAS, the National Parkinson's Foundation (NPF) was established in 1957, and its mission is to improve the quality of care through research, education and outreach, and it will hold its inaugural *National Foundation's Moving Day Walk* on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the University of South Florida Health's Byrd Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders Center to unite families, friends and the community in the fight against Parkinson's disease, and promote the establishment of a Tampa Bay Chapter.

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

"PARKINSON'S DISEASE 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, support those afflicted with the disease and their caregivers, and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of March, 2015.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor