

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA) is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and there is currently no treatment or cure for SMA which is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with this disease; and

WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for infants, affecting one in 10,000 babies, and it crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, it can strike anyone of any age or gender, and one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes this disease; and

WHEREAS, individuals with SMA have difficulty performing the basic functions of life including breathing and swallowing, but the person's ability to think, learn, and build relationships with others are not affected; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both disease research and for families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

WHEREAS, the month of August has been named *National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month* by Patient Groups to bring attention to this devastating disease and to promote research to find treatments and, ultimately a cure; and

WHEREAS, Patient Groups and other organizations from around the nation plan awareness events during the month of August in recognition of National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month, and locally the Cure SMA – Greater Florida Chapter is hosting its **5th Annual Cure SMA Day at the Rays** on Sunday, August 9, 2015 during the Tampa Bay Rays versus the New York Mets baseball game to help promote SMA and raise needed funding for research into this devastating disease.

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 August 2015 as

“NATIONAL SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support Spinal Muscular Atrophy organizations, including Cure SMA, in their efforts to bring awareness, find a treatment and, eventually, a cure for this disease.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of July, 2015.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor