

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, **Colon Cancer** will be diagnosed in approximately 136,800 people in 2016, and it is estimated that over 50,000 will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, risk of colon cancer can be reduced with regular screenings that include finding and removing polyps before they become cancerous, and knowing family health history and risk factors, maintaining a healthy life style including a balanced diet, exercising, limiting alcohol usage and not smoking attribute to minimizing the disease; and

WHEREAS, **National Colon Cancer Awareness Month** has been held annually in the month of March, officially dedicated by President Bill Clinton in 1990, and the initiative has become a rallying point for the colon cancer community whereby thousands of patients, survivors, caregivers and advocates throughout the nation join together to spread awareness about colon cancer and the importance of vital screenings for life-saving early detection; and

WHEREAS, research suggests new cases of colon cancer occur in people age 50 and older, and individuals with a parent, sibling or offspring who have had the disease have a two to three times higher risk of developing it; and

WHEREAS, established in 1999, the Colon Cancer Alliance was founded by a group of survivors, caregivers and friends and its mission is to knock colon cancer out of the top three cancer killers by championing prevention, funding cutting-edge research and providing the highest quality patient support services; and

WHEREAS, nationally during the months of February and March, awareness and funds will be raised through the annual **Undy Run/Walk** and locally, the Colon Cancer Alliance Tampa Bay hosted approximately 500 participants who raised \$40,000 for its Blue Hope Partner, the *BRIDGE Healthcare Clinic*, located at the University of South Florida in the Carol and Frank Morsani Center for Advanced Health Care; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Colon Cancer Alliance launched the “**Dress in Blue Day**” to bring national attention to colon cancer and to celebrate the courage of those affected by the disease, this year on Friday, March 4, 2016.

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 2016 as

“NATIONAL COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting the efforts to raise awareness, support those afflicted with colon cancer and their caregivers, and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day of February, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor