

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Dystonia is a disorder that affects the nervous system and is characterized by involuntary muscle contractions that cause slow repetitive movements or abnormal postures, and the condition may cause tremors or other neurologic features, be painful, interfere with daily activities, and affect speech, but it does not alter intellect; and

WHEREAS, there are over a dozen forms of the condition with *primary dystonia* described as the predominant symptom, and *secondary dystonia* refers to it being associated with a known outside factor or condition such as trauma, stroke, cerebral palsy, and drug exposure; and

WHEREAS, the third most common movement disorder after essential tremor (ET) and Parkinson's disease, dystonia affects an estimated 300,000 men, women and children in North America, and it can occur at any age, although the onset is more often during childhood versus adulthood; and

WHEREAS, while the cause of dystonia is unknown, research suggests the condition may result from an abnormality in or damage to the brain, and while there is no cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of dystonia, there are several treatment options that can ease some of the symptoms, and researchers, medical professionals, caregivers and volunteers are working to improve the quality of life for those suffering with the disorder and their families, and

WHEREAS, the *Dystonia Medical Research Foundation* (DMRF) is a nonprofit organization established in 1976, and its mission is to advance research for more treatments and ultimately a cure, promote awareness and education, and to support the needs and well-being of affected individuals and families, and is represented locally with the Tampa Bay Support Chapter of DMRF; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and good health of the residents of the city of Tampa are enhanced by their awareness of dystonia, and increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as

"DYSTONIA 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 dystonia and their caregivers, and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of August, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor