

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 approximately one million 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 \$26.4 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 gait and 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 **Michael J. Fox Foundation** (MJFF) was established in 2000, and is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through funded research and ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with the disease today, and since its inception has funded more than \$750 million to further its mission in finding a cure; and

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 locally, in support of the Michael J. Fox Foundation's mission, the **RaceTrac's Run for Research 5K** held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at Gadsden Park features the theme *Race for Fox in Your Craziest Socks* and the event will include free food, prizes, music and more with 100 percent of the proceeds supporting the MJFF for Parkinson's research.

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 2018 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 8th day of March, 2018.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

