

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, pulmonary hypertension, first identified by Dr. Ernst von Romberg in 1891, is a type of high blood pressure that affects the arteries in the lungs and the right side of the heart, and begins when tiny pulmonary arteries and capillaries become narrowed, blocked or destroyed, making it difficult for the blood to flow through the lungs, causing the heart to work harder to pump blood through the lungs; and

WHEREAS, because pulmonary hypertension causes the heart muscle to weaken, this is a serious illness that becomes progressively worse, sometimes fatal, and because symptoms such as general fatigue, coughing and shortness of breath gradually develop, those affected often delay seeking medical attention or are misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, although pulmonary hypertension is currently not curable, treatments are available that can help lessen the symptoms and improve the quality of life for those suffering with the disease, and without treatment patients typically live an average of less than three years, while those that are diagnosed early and receive effective treatment, the disorder can be managed for twenty years or more; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit **Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA)**, founded in Florida in May 1990, grew from a local support group to a national and international organization and its mission is to find ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension, and to provide hope for the pulmonary hypertension community through support, education, advocacy and awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association is empowered by the hope for a cure and through serving the needs of patients, caregivers and medical professionals, and bringing awareness to the public through campaigns such as the annual ***Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month*** held each November, and the organization is committed to providing services and programs to those lives that have been touched by pulmonary hypertension; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **Tampa Bay Pulmonary Hypertension Support Group**, founded in 2010, strives to bring awareness to the Tampa Bay community about pulmonary hypertension and raises needed funds for increased education, research, effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for this disease, and the organization is supportive of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association initiatives including ***The Right Heart***, a year-long storytelling campaign to raise awareness about pulmonary hypertension through posts, pictures, videos and live social media events with the goal of reaching people unknowingly living with the disease, their loved ones and health providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 2018 as

“PULMONARY HYPERTENSION 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 and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of October, 2018.

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

