

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA) is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities and basic functions of life such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, swallowing, and breathing, but the person's ability to think, learn, and build relationships with others are not affected; and

WHEREAS, SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for infants, affecting one in 11,000 babies, and it crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, it can strike anyone of any age or gender, and one in approximately 50 Americans is a genetic carrier for the disease; and

WHEREAS, in December 2016, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first-ever treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which has been proven to be most effective when administered as soon as possible, and screening of newborn babies for the disease is an important preventative to the detrimental effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both needed disease research and for the 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 **9th Annual Cure SMA Day at the Rays** on Sunday, August 4, 2019, during the Tampa Bay Rays versus the Miami Marlins baseball game to help promote SMA and raise needed funding for research into this devastating disease.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of August 2019 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, who are committed to raising awareness and funding for research, the development of treatments, supporting clinical trials, and ultimately, finding a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of July, 2019.



Jane Castor
Mayor