Proclamation

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, considered rare, bleeding disorders that include hemophilia and von Willebrand disease are characterized by the blood not clotting normally due to the lack of a clotting proteins, also known as clotting factors; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 20,000 individuals live with hemophilia, with 5,000 of them living in the state of Florida, and 1-2 percent of the American population have von Willebrand disease, and while treatment can help, the conditions are not yet curable; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of a bleeding disorder include unexplained and excessive bleeding, large or deep bruising, nosebleeds, and bleeding into joints, muscles and soft tissues, and if someone has a bleeding disorder, they may have extended bleeding with incidences such as an injury or trauma, menstruation, surgery or dental procedures; and

WHEREAS, established in 1948, the ***National Hemophilia Foundation*** (NHF) is an organization for all people with bleeding disorders and is dedicated to its mission of finding better treatments and cures for inheritable bleeding disorders and in preventing the complications of these disorders through education, advocacy and research, and they offer quality of life programs serving the bleeding disorders community such as medically supervised camps, scholarships, advocacy efforts, emergency financial assistance, and more; and

WHEREAS, the ***Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida***, founded in 1996, supports the bleeding disorder community throughout the state, and its mission is to improve the quality of life for people with the condition and their families through education, information and referral services, advocacy, support, and research, and annually the organization hosts **5K and Fun Walks** throughout Florida to bring awareness to the community and needed funding for research and support services, and this year in the Tampa Bay area, the event will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg, Florida.

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 March 2021 as

"BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of these serious bleeding disorders, and thank the efforts of health care professionals and the National Hemophilia Foundation and the Greater Florida organizations for their dedication, and for their commitment to improved treatments and ultimately, a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18th day of February 2021.

Jane Castor

Mayor