

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease** (PD) is an age-related chronic, progressive, neurological disorder and it is one of the most common neurodegenerative diseases and the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** it is estimated that approximately one million individuals are affected with Parkinson's disease in our nation, with the prevalence expected to rise to 1.2 million by the year 2030, and the economic burden is at least \$52 billion annually, including direct and indirect costs to patients and family members; 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 of movement, difficulty with gait and balance, swallowing, chewing, speaking, and cognitive problems including 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, caregivers, and volunteers are working to improve the quality of life for persons living with Parkinson's disease and their families; 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 organizations including the University of South Florida Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders Center, the Parkinson's Foundation, the Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF), and others are dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through advancing research, improving care, and ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with the 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 April 2023 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor