

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, vitiligo is a non-contagious autoimmune disease that manifests in depigmentation of the skin also described as a loss of pigmentation from areas of the skin resulting in irregular white spots or patches, and while there is no current cure, some treatments are available that may help the skin tone appear more even, and in 2022, the first drug to treat vitiligo was approved; and

WHEREAS, the most common symptom of vitiligo is the loss of natural color whereby the skin gets milky-white patches, usually on the hands, feet, arms, face, inside the mouth and nose, and in some cases the hair will turn white on the scalp, eyebrow, eyelash, and beard; and

WHEREAS, vitiligo affects approximately one percent of the population in both genders and all races, it can start at any age, and seems more prevalent in those who have family members with certain autoimmune diseases, and while the condition does not normally cause pain, it may have psychological and social effects, especially in children; and

WHEREAS, vitiligo is under-funded for research, education, and new treatment development, so there is a vital need for awareness campaigns to educate the medical community, support individuals and families affected by the disorder, and to bring attention regarding the importance of understanding and acceptance, and since 2011, the month of June has been recognized as **Vitiligo Awareness Month** and the United Nations has designated each June 25th as **World Vitiligo Day**; and

WHEREAS, representing the state of Florida, the *Beautifully Unblemished Vitiligo Support Group* (BUVSG) was founded to bring together those with vitiligo with the vision of inspiring, empowering, and encouraging every individual affected by changes in appearance from the disorder, and its 250 members are committed to the organization's mission of increasing public awareness of vitiligo and strive to provide support services for those affected and their families through education, healthcare, and outreach; and

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 June 2023 as

“VITILIGO AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to take part in and support organizations and programs designed to bring awareness to this disorder, not only during the month of June and on June 25th, but throughout the year.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 12th day of May 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor