

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, considered rare, bleeding disorders that include hemophilia A (factor VII deficiency), hemophilia B (factor IX deficiency), and von Willebrand disease are characterized by the blood not clotting normally due to the lack of clotting proteins, also known as clotting factors; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there are approximately 3 million people who are affected by bleeding disorders in the United States, and while hemophilia is more common in men, von Willebrand disease (VWD) affects both men and women equally, and often, women with bleeding disorders are unaware of their condition; and

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

WHEREAS, statistics show that care provided by federally funded Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTC) increase health outcomes so patients with bleeding disorders can live a better quality of life, and there are approximately 141 federally funded HTC nationwide, including three locally in Tampa, Florida, to serve and provide quality care in the community; and

WHEREAS, established in 1948, and previously known as the National Hemophilia Foundation, the *National Bleeding Disorders Foundation* is an inclusive organization for all people with bleeding disorders and it is dedicated to its mission of finding better treatments and cures and in preventing the complications of these disorders, and they offer outstanding educational programs, advocacy, research, healthcare, community resources, scholarships, and emergency financial assistance, and they recently launched the *Better You Know Campaign* in partnership with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to raise awareness of bleeding disorders among women and girls who may experience symptoms, but have not been diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, the *Bleeding Disorders Foundation of Florida*, formally the Hemophilia Foundation of Greater Florida, and the Florida Hemophilia Association support 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, referral services, advocacy, support, and research.

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 2024 as

“BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH”

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

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of February 2024.



Mayor

