

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, lupus is a non-contagious autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to any part of the body including the skin, joints, and/or organs, and its affects can range from mild to life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, a global health problem, more than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease with approximately 1.5 million living in the United States of America, and the disease affects women, men and children of all nationalities, races, genders, and ages, and the National Resource Center on Lupus reports that 90 percent of people living with lupus are women; and

WHEREAS, medical research into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity, and many physicians worldwide are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing many people to suffer for years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and appropriate medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, there is a vital, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus and to increase awareness in communities of its debilitating impacts, and to bring attention to the disease and to the fact that early diagnosis and following a treatment plan may improve prognosis and help those with lupus live a normal life span; and

WHEREAS, non-profit organizations such as the World Lupus Federation, the Lupus Foundation of America including its Florida Chapter, and the Labalaba Foundation are committed to bringing education and awareness to communities worldwide, including through campaigns, patient advocacy initiatives, resource provisions, and fundraising programs to support research and the lupus community; and

WHEREAS, each year, the month of May is named *Lupus Awareness Month*, with May 10th designated as *World Lupus Day* to call attention to the impact lupus has on people around the world, to focus on the need for improved patient healthcare services, to create useful tools to monitor disease activity, to support increased research to the causes of and ultimately a cure for the disease, and lupus organizations around the globe advocate and promote worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue, and **purple** is the signature color of lupus awareness.

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 May 2024 as

“LUPUS 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 disease and the toll it takes on those it affects, especially on Monday, May 10, 2024, in recognition of World Lupus Day, and wear **purple** in advocacy of lupus awareness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of April 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor