

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, **vitiligo** is a non-contagious autoimmune disease causing the loss of pigmentation from areas of the skin resulting in irregular white spots or patches, and while there is no cure, treatments are available that may help the skin tone appear more even, and the first drug to treat vitiligo was approved in 2022; 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 3 million Americans in both genders and all races, it can start at any age, and seems more prevalent in those with family members with certain autoimmune diseases, and while not normally painful, psychological and social effects are well-documented, especially in children; and

WHEREAS, vitiligo is under-funded for research, education, and new treatment development, creating 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 **National 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 in 2018 with the mission of increasing public awareness of vitiligo, and it strives to provide support services for those affected and their families through education, healthcare, and outreach, and the organization, in partnership with the ***Global Vitiligo Foundation***, is hosting the ***World Vitiligo Day USA 2025 Conference*** on June 27-29, 2025, at the Hilton Tampa Downtown Hotel featuring the theme *Beyond the Surface: Redefining Vitiligo*, and attendees from around the world will gather to celebrate living with vitiligo.

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 2025, 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 19th day of May 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor