

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, seizures and epilepsy are major national health problems with experts informing us that two in ten persons will have at least one seizure during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, a seizure is a sudden, brief attack of altered consciousness, motor activity or sensory phenomena, and is a sign that certain brains cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses; and

**WHEREAS**, epilepsy can be caused by injury to the brain, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumor, infection or brain hemorrhage, however in 60% of the cases, the cause is unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, seizures affect more than 30,000 children and adults in West Central Florida, 300,000 persons in Florida, and 2.5 million persons nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, 150,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed each year in the United States with children and the elderly affected in almost equal proportion and more than 22,000 Americans die each year from non-stop seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, the supportive programs and services provided by Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida, Inc., established in 1973, continue to promote healthy lifestyle choices for persons with seizure disorders, and help individuals and families better cope with the effect of this medical condition.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of November, 2011 as

## "EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting Epilepsy Services of West Central Florida, Inc., and healthcare professionals in their efforts to improve the lives of persons affected by epilepsy.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2011.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

