

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, often defined as “ringing in the ears,” tinnitus causes a person to hear ringing, buzzing, or a variety of other sounds without external cause, and often includes a heightened sensitivity to sound, and the condition can be debilitating, resulting in reducing the quality of life for those chronically affected; and

WHEREAS, tinnitus may be caused by conditions such as ear infection, use of certain drugs, blocked auditory tube or canal, or a head injury, but is most often the result of extreme noise from either a single impulse noise or the accumulation of noise exposure, and prolonged amplified sound can be hazardous to hearing, and according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the maximum allowable noise exposure is 85 decibels for eight hours; and

WHEREAS, as many as 50 million Americans experience tinnitus to some degree, with approximately 16 million suffering with chronic tinnitus, and it is the number one service-related disability suffered by military personnel returning from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, current therapies used to treat tinnitus do not permanently rid a patient of the condition and not all benefit from the therapies available, but new, sophisticated brain-imaging technologies have allowed researchers to identify the areas of the brain that involve tinnitus allowing scientists to study the condition in several alternate ways; and

WHEREAS, tinnitus is a condition that can affect anyone, young or old, and increased public awareness of the debilitating effects are crucial to encourage both public and private health care organizations to fund continued research on ways to alleviate the symptoms of tinnitus and to find a cure;

WHEREAS, during Tinnitus Awareness Week groups from around the nation will participate in **Tour de Tinnitus** and will ride bicycles to raise funds to benefit the American Tinnitus Association, and, locally, Sal Gentile and the **Top of the Bay Rails n Trails** team will ride one hundred miles along the Withlacoochee Trail on Saturday, May 19, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 13-19, 2012 as

“TINNITUS AWARENESS WEEK”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the challenges those affected with tinnitus face, and applaud the efforts of the American Tinnitus Association and other organizations dedicated to helping those living with the condition..

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day of May, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

