

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers and the fourth leading cause of cancer death. In 2012, an estimated 43,920 people will be diagnosed with the disease and 37,390 will die from the disease, with approximately 2,670 of those deaths occurring in the state of Florida alone; and

WHEREAS, when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is usually too late for an optimistic prognosis, and 74 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and 94 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first five years; and in our nation, African American citizens have the highest incident rate of pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no cure for pancreatic cancer and there have been no significant improvements in early detection, treatment methods, or survival rates in the last 40 years; and it continues to be the least funded among the top five cancer killers, constituting only 2 percent of the National Cancer Institute's federal research funding, a figure far too low given the severity of the disease, its mortality rate, and how little is known about how to arrest it; and

WHEREAS, recently, on September 19, 2012 the United States House of Representatives passed unanimously the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* (H.R. 733), formerly known as the *Pancreatic Cancer Research and Education Act*, requiring the National Cancer Institute to create a long-term plan and to develop a scientific framework for combating pancreatic cancer and other hard to treat cancers, and it is hoped by all those dedicated to finding a cure for pancreatic cancer that the United States Senate will also pass the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act* (S. 3566) currently on the legislative calendar; and

WHEREAS, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the first and only national patient advocacy organization that serves the pancreatic cancer community nationwide by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for this devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, the good health and well-being of the residents of our community are enhanced by increased awareness about pancreatic cancer, and the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and their affiliates in Tampa, Florida support those patients currently battling pancreatic cancer as well as honor those who have lost their lives to the disease, and are committed to nothing less than a cure.

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

"PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts to raise awareness, develop early detection methods, treatments and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of October, 2012.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor