

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a potentially fatal inflammatory disease that can appear in almost any organ in the body, and although the lungs are affected in more than 90% of patients, the disease often attacks the heart, eyes, central nervous system, liver and kidneys; and

WHEREAS, once thought rare, sarcoidosis is now known to be common and affects people of all ages and races worldwide, and some research shows that genetic and environmental factors may have a role in the formation of this disease with bacteria, viruses or chemicals triggering it in those with the right genetic predisposition; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, it is most common in African Americans and people of European descent, particularly Scandinavian, with most studies indicating a higher disease rate for women; and

WHEREAS, the month of April was declared **National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month** by the United States Congress in 2008 and has been designated across the county and abroad in an effort to help promote sarcoidosis awareness, education and further research efforts; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease, little is known about who is susceptible and the cause remains unclear; and with increased research, discovering the cause, improving treatment and finding a cure may well be within reach; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Janine's Sarcoidosis Outreach Foundation (JSOF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving care for sarcoidosis patients and promoting more research into a cause and possible cure, and its mission is to raise awareness of sarcoidosis and its health issues through educational campaigns, strengthening patient and physician relationships, providing support through group meetings, telephone and email contacts, and helping empower sufferers to become advocates for themselves, thus helping patients to cope while dealing with this disease over long periods of time; and

WHEREAS, during Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, the Tampa JSOF will host several events in April to bring awareness to the Tampa community including a Church Visitation Day, Belk's Charity Day Sale, and the 2nd Annual JSOF Rally and Balloon Launch held on April 27, 2013 at al Lopez Park, and the City of Tampa is pleased to join in these efforts to promote the health and well-being of our citizens.

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 April, 2013, as

"SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to help support this effort by increasing awareness of this disease and providing support to those suffering with its effects.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 27th day of March, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor