

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, ataxia is often associated with a life-shortening degenerative neurological disorder that affect balance, coordination, speech, hearing and sight, and other organ systems such as the heart and muscles; and

**WHEREAS**, although many Americans are unaware of this disease, more than 150,000 men, women, and children across the United States are affected by ataxia; and

**WHEREAS**, ataxia can strike anyone at any time and the debilitating and progressive course has a significant economic, physical, and emotional impact on the lives of those affected, and there is presently no known treatment or cure; and

**WHEREAS**, ataxia is typically caused by a recessive or dominant gene, and often the first sign that a person is a carrier is when their children begin to display signs of the disease, and there are also sporadic forms of ataxia that have no known cause; and

**WHEREAS**, the *National Ataxia Foundation* (NAF) was established in 1957 to help families affected by this disease through research, education, and patient services and, in addition to its own research efforts, supports projects that are designed to understand the pathology and cause of ataxia or to introduce new treatments based upon scientific data; and

**WHEREAS**, although NAF research programs fund promising ataxia research studies and has developed an extensive library of brochures, books and videos, ataxia is often not known at all by the public so patients and their families must continue bear a large share of the burden for raising awareness and funds for research; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Ataxia Foundation and other organizations throughout the world have joined forces to declare September 25<sup>th</sup> as **International Ataxia Awareness Day** and the City of Tampa wishes to join in this endeavor.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2013 as

## **"ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY"**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to lend their support to those individuals and their families affected with this disease in the hope that a cure will soon be found.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

