

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA) is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two and one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA; and

**WHEREAS**, SMA is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and there is currently no treatment or cure for SMA which is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with this disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, and can strike anyone of any age or gender; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both disease research and for families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (FSMA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 which has funded and directed over \$55 million for leading SMA research programs, and its successful results and progress from basic research to drug discovery programs to clinical trials provide real hope for families and patients. Locally, these efforts are aided by FSMA of Greater Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, FSMA and patient groups from around the nation have named August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease.

**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 August 2014 as

## **"SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH"**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support the many associations, including the Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy organization, in their efforts to bring awareness and find a treatment and, eventually, a cure for this disease.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor