

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, **lupus** is a non-contagious autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to any part of the body including the skin, joints, and/or organs, and its affects can range from mild to life-threatening; and

**WHEREAS**, more than five million people worldwide suffer the devastating effects of this disease and each year over a hundred thousand young women, men and children are newly diagnosed, the great majority of whom are women of childbearing age; and

**WHEREAS**, medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are under-funded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity, and many physicians worldwide are unaware of symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing many to suffer for many years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a vital, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals and families affected by lupus and to increase awareness in communities of its debilitating impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lupus Foundation of America, a non-profit organization, is committed to solving the mystery of lupus, gives caring support to those who suffer from its brutal effects, brings awareness to others about the disease, and raises funds to reduce the diagnosis time, ensure people with lupus have an arsenal of safe and effective treatments, and to expand direct services and increase access to treatment and care for those suffering from lupus; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 100,000 Floridians are affected by lupus, and the Florida Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America is committed to the mission of improving the quality of life for all people affected by lupus through programs that include research, education, support and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS**, May 10, 2015 has been designated as **World Lupus Day** on which lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients and the public, and promote worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, May 10, 2015 as

## **“WORLD LUPUS DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to take part in and support local activities designed to bring awareness to this disease and the toll it takes on those it affects.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

