

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, autism is a complex neurobiological disorder and developmental disability that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime which often impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others, makes social interaction difficult, may cause the person to have a limited set of interests and activities, and is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, autism is widespread, and to bring awareness to the rising prevalence of the disorder globally, the United Nations General Assembly designated April 2<sup>nd</sup> annually as **World Autism Awareness Day**, first observed in 2008, and in the United States, the first **National Autism Awareness Month** was declared by the Autism Society in April 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, Autism affects girls and boys of all races and geographic regions, and in the United States, autism affects 1 in every 68 children with boys being nearly five times more likely than girls to have the disorder, and there is no medical detection or cure for autism; and

**WHEREAS**, education, intervention and assistance are critical components that provide families with the necessary skills to support those diagnosed with autism and related disabilities, and since each individual with autism is unique, each treatment plan needs to be addressed to specific needs including developing a team of professionals, parental training, therapy, and approaches to teaching; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, April 23, 2016 thousands of Tampa Bay area residents will participate in the **2016 Tampa Bay Autism Speaks Walk** at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the City of Tampa is pleased to join and recognize the numerous local, state and national organizations, including Autism Speaks, therapists, teachers and parents that are working diligently to combat autism, increase funding for research, raise awareness, and care for children and adults with autism.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2, 2016 as

## ***“AUTISM AWARENESS DAY”***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting and encouraging those living with autism and related disabilities and to take part in activities which will raise awareness about early warning signs, early intervention, and lifelong opportunities and strategies to improve the quality of life for those with autism and their families.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor