

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Spina Bifida (a Latin term for “split spine”) is a birth defect whereby there is an incomplete closing or development failure of the backbone and membranes around the spinal cord and believed to be caused by a combination of environmental and genetic factors; and

WHEREAS, a part of a group of birth defects call neural tube defects, Spina Bifida occurs in various forms of severity with *spina bifida occulta*, *meningocele* and *myelomeningocele* the three most common types of the disorder; and

WHEREAS, the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the United States, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) estimates over 177,000 Americans are affected by Spina Bifida and treatment depends on the severity with some requiring no treatment, others requiring prenatal surgery or surgery soon after birth; and

WHEREAS, while a family history of neural tube defects increases the risk slightly, other factors have been identified for Spina Bifida occurrences including folate deficiency, some anti-seizure medications, diabetes, obesity, and increased body temperature during the early weeks of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, educating women about Spina Bifida encourages preventive measures, and encourages valuable screenings and proper prenatal care that can greatly reduce the risks associated with the condition; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1975, the *Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida* (SBACFL), an affiliate of the Spina Bifida Association, serves twenty-two Florida counties and its mission is to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and enhance the lives of all affected; and

WHEREAS, the Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida is hosting its *3rd Annual Walk-N-Roll* event on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at Tampa’s Water Works Park to bring awareness about Spina Bifida, and to raise funds for research, education and the support of those affected by the disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 22, 2016 as

“SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support the Spina Bifida Association of Central Florida and other patient groups in their efforts to promote research, prevention, and bring awareness to the public regarding Spina Bifida.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of September, 2016.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor