

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, named for Professor Hans Chiari, an Austrian pathologist who first identified the disease in the 1890's, **Chiari Malformation** (CM) is a serious neurological disorder whereby the bottom part of the brain, the cerebellum, descends out of the skull causing crowding of the spinal cord, which puts pressure on both the brain and spine, and may block the flow of cerebrospinal fluid to and from the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, affecting approximately one in 1,000 Americans, Chiari Malformation often appears during adolescence or early childhood, and it can cause crippling headaches, neck pain, balancing problems, breathing difficulties including sleep apnea, numbness and weakness in the limbs, other health problems, and it is sometimes fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of the malformation to create improved treatment and prevention plans, and increased awareness of Chiari Malformation will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both research and for patients and families affected with the disorder that will hopefully answer fundamental questions regarding its underlying cause, diagnosis, and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Conquer Chiari is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes of Chiari Malformation patients through education, awareness and research, and it has funded more than \$1,000,000 in research projects including developing novel imaging techniques, gene identification, and assessing cognitive effects, and the organization is committed to physician education on treatment and care to ensure the safety and an enhanced quality of life for their patients suffering with Chiari Malformation; and

**WHEREAS**, Conquer Chiari and patient groups from around the nation have named September as National Chiari Malformation Awareness Month and annually hold a **Conquer Chiari Walk Across America**, a series of awareness and fundraising walks, and locally the Conquer Chiari Walk will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Hillsborough County Fairgrounds featuring the theme **Educate. Fight. Conquer.**, and all proceeds benefit CM research, education and awareness programs.

**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 2017 as

## ***"CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support Conquer Chiari and other patient groups in their efforts to promote research and bring awareness about this devastating disorder.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor