

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1), is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world resulting from a mutation of the Serpenia1 gene, and it can result in life threatening lung disease in adults and liver disease in both children and adults; and

WHEREAS, with the onset of lung problems affecting people twenty to fifty years of age, symptoms usually include shortness of breath, wheezing, and yellowish skin, and while the disease is widely under-diagnosed and misdiagnosed, Alpha-1 is confirmed with blood or genetic testing, and treatments often include medications such as bronchodilators and inhaled steroids, and lung and liver transplants; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 100,000 children and adults in the United States have the deficiency with all populations and ethnic groups affected, and researchers estimate there are at least 20 million carriers of the single gene defect that may be passed on to their children, and is the most common known genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); and

WHEREAS, the *Alpha-1 Foundation* is a non-profit organization established in 1995, and its mission is to find a cure for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and improve the lives of those affected by the disease worldwide, and it has invested \$76 million in vital research and programs at 116 institutions in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Australia; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Foundation Support Group is a collective of more than eighty affiliated groups including Virtual Support Groups, and they are dedicated to providing support, education and information to people affected by Alpha-1, and to extend the mission of the Alpha-1 Foundation; and

WHEREAS, locally, the *Tampa FLAlphas Support Group* actively brings awareness to the Tampa Bay area through awareness events with the goal of educating both the medical community and citizens on this serious and often fatal disease including a **Tampa Dinner and Dance Awareness Celebration** held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the Heritage Harbor Country Club in Lutz, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2019 as

“ALPHA-1 AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts of Alpha-1 Foundation to raise awareness about Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency disease and encourage all endeavors to find a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of October, 2019.



Jane Castor
Mayor