

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime which severely impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others and is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, a recent CDC study confirmed that 1 in 150 individuals is diagnosed with autism in the United States, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined, and yet the cause of autism is not currently known; and

WHEREAS, over 24,271 children will be diagnosed with autism this year totaling 1.7 million individuals in the United States living with an autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS, for unknown reasons the rates of autism are increasing and the prevalence of autism is three times higher in boys than in girls; and

WHEREAS, education and assistance are critical components to provide families and professional with necessary skills to support individuals diagnosed with autism and related disabilities; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 28, 2009 thousands of Tampa Bay area residents will participate in the 2009 Tampa Bay Walk Now for Autism. The City of Tampa is pleased to join and recognize the many groups like Autism Speaks and numerous other national organizations, local 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, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 28, 2009 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, intensive early intervention and lifelong opportunities and strategies to improve the quality of people's lives.



Pam Iorio

Mayor