

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS, *Spinal Muscular Atrophy* (SMA)** is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities and basic functions of life such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, swallowing, and breathing, but the person's ability to think, learn, and build relationships with others are not affected; and

**WHEREAS,** SMA is the leading genetic cause of death for infants under two years of age, affecting one in 11,000 babies, and it crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, it can strike anyone of any age or gender, and one in approximately 50 Americans is a genetic carrier for the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** there are two Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, both of which are most effective when administered as soon as possible, and screening of newborn babies for the disease is an important preventative to the detrimental effects of the condition, and this year, the Florida Department of Health has included SMA on its Newborn Screening program; and

**WHEREAS,** increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both needed disease research and for the families affected by the disease, both physically and emotionally, and especially during this time of increased vulnerability during the global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** the month of August has been named *National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month* by Patient Groups to bring attention to this devastating disease and to promote research to find treatments, and ultimately a cure; and

**WHEREAS,** Patient Groups such as Cure SMA and other organizations from around the nation are dedicated educating the public about Spinal Muscular Atrophy and working to raise awareness and needed funding for this devastating disease; locally, the Greater Florida Chapter of Cure SMA is hosting its 2020 Greater Florida Walk-n-Roll event on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Al Lopez Park in Tampa, 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 August 2020 as

## ***“NATIONAL SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH”***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to support Spinal Muscular Atrophy organizations, including Cure SMA, who are committed to raising awareness and funding for research, the development of treatments, supporting clinical trials, and finding a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2020.

  
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Mayor

