

**PROLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER, 2003 AS
NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Epilepsy, also known as Seizure Disorder, has afflicted mankind since the dawn of our species and has been recognized since the earliest medical writings, and

WHEREAS, as long as 400 BC, Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, repudiated ancient beliefs that Epilepsy was a visitation from the gods and sacred or that it was a curse from the gods that people afflicted with this disorder held prophetic powers. Hippocrates believed that Epilepsy was a brain disorder, and

WHEREAS, a seizure is a sudden, brief attach of altered consciousness, motor activity or sensory phenomena. It is a sign that certain brain cells (neurons) are discharging an excessive amount of electrical impulses, and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can be caused by injury to the brain, lack of oxygen at birth, brain tumor, infection and brain hemorrhage. In sixty percent of the cases, the cause is unknown, and

WHEREAS, Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age and at any time, and

WHEREAS more than two million Americans are afflicted with some type of Epilepsy. Of this number, 150,000 are Florida residents, and

WHEREAS, with the administration of anticonvulsant drugs, two thirds (66.66%) of those afflicted with Epilepsy are drug controlled, and

WHEREAS, the lack of education about this disorder has contributed to age old myths, superstitions and prejudices, and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with this disorder is sometimes worse than the disorder itself, and

WHEREAS, people who have Epilepsy make reliable and conscientious workers in job performance, productivity, safety, cooperation and attendance, and

WHEREAS, studies carried out in the United States over the past thirty years have indicated that of all disabilities, Epilepsy poses the greatest barrier to employment with unemployment rates estimated to fall between twenty and twenty-five percent.

WHEREAS, Epilepsy should not be a barrier to success. In addition to the normal requirements for success, a person with Epilepsy needs a supportive environment and employers who are willing to give them an opportunity to become productive citizens.

Be it resolved that the governing body of the Town of Cinco Bayou does hereby declare the month of November 2003 as national Epilepsy Awareness Month.

Passed and Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Cinco Bayou, Florida, this the 9th day of October, 2003.

APPROVED:

Norm Frucci, Mayor

Nell Webb, Town Manager/Clerk