

# Boston

## PROCLAMATION

- Whereas: Spinal Muscular Atrophy refers to a group of diseases which affect the motor neurons of the spinal cord and brain stem. It is estimated that spinal muscular atrophy occurs close to one-in-20,000; and*
- Whereas: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Types I, II, and III belong to a group of hereditary diseases that cause weakness and wasting of the voluntary muscles in the arms and legs of infants and children; and*
- Whereas: Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is incurable, untreatable, and fatal underfunded and an autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disease which result in muscle weakness atrophy; Spinal Muscular Atrophy kills more babies than ANY other genetic disease; and*
- Whereas: Families of SMA is dedicated to developing a treatment and cure for SMA by promoting and supporting research, helping families cope through informational programs and support, and educating the public and the medical community about SMA; and*
- Whereas: Since 1984 Families of SMA by a small group of parents, has grown to more than 32 chapters and affiliates worldwide with more than 50,000 supporters, and has funded almost \$40 million towards advancing new therapies toward human clinical testing. SMA has been chosen by NIH to be the model for translational research because it is the closest to a treatment or cure out of 300 neurological disorders; NOW*
- Therefore, I, Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of the City of Boston, do hereby proclaim Saturday June 21, 2008*

### ***Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Day***

*In the City of Boston,*

*Thomas M. Menino*  
Mayor

