

WELCOME

**Honorary Naming Written Request
Tampa River Center and Boat House Located
at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park
May 29, 2025**



Bob Buckhorn – Honorary Naming

Written Request Initiated by Mayor Jane Castor

In accordance with the City's Honorary Naming Ordinance, please accept this memo as my written request that the name of the Tampa River Center and Boat House located at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park be changed to the "Bob Buckhorn River Center and Boat House" at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park.

I request, after you have received, processed and prepared a report confirming the same, that an Executive Order be prepared for my execution conferring this honorary naming request in accordance with Section 2-830(b)(5) of the City's Honorary Naming Ordinance.

Bob Buckhorn – Honorary Naming

Written Request Initiated by Mayor Jane Castor

After a long history of service to the City of Tampa, Bob Buckhorn was elected as the 58th mayor of Tampa in 2011 for the first of two consecutive terms, during which time he led the City out of the largest recession since the great depression. As mayor, Mr. Buckhorn made it a priority to focus on public safety, strong neighborhoods, and economic growth while working diligently to improve the overall quality of life in our community.

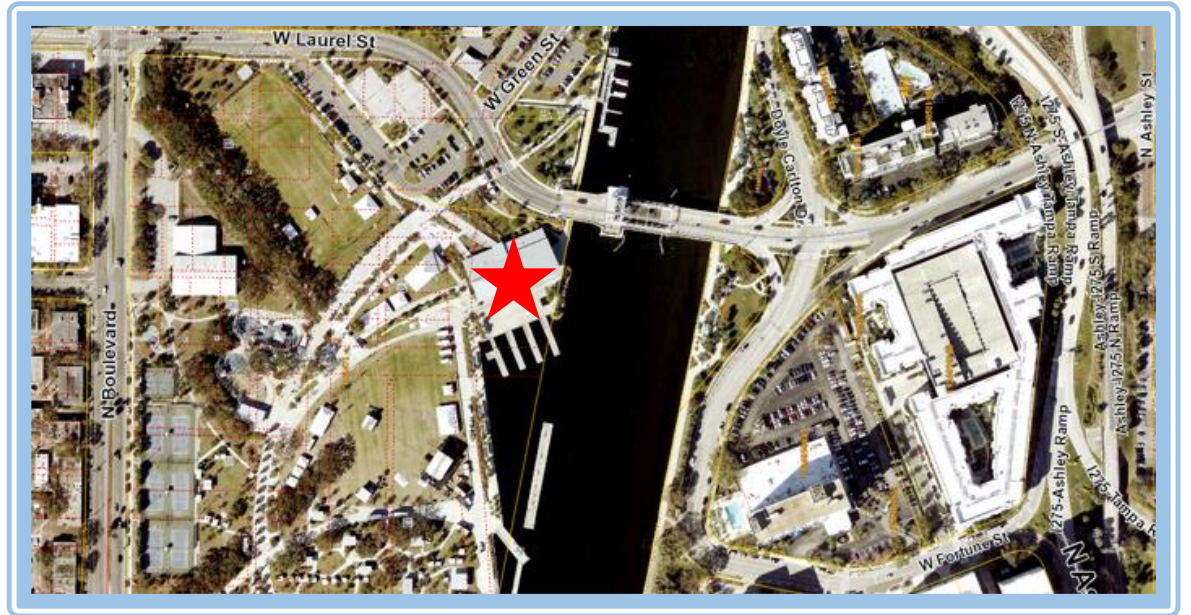
Through his vision, the Hillsborough River became the City's focal point. With community involvement, the West River Redevelopment Plan, a part of the InVision Plan, was created to transform the area west of the river, and substantial improvements and investments were made to both Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park and nearby streets increasing public access to the Hillsborough River on the river's west side. Mr. Buckhorn laid the foundation for Tampa to compete with other top-tier cities by fostering a culture of inclusiveness, responsiveness, and determination. He also strengthened City neighborhoods and empowered its citizens through programs such as the Mayor's Neighborhood University and the completion of the Tampa Riverwalk.

In sum, through his leadership as mayor, Bob Buckhorn provided Tampa and its future leaders with a blueprint for success as an emerging modern city, and for other cities across the country to emulate.

Bob Buckhorn – Honorary Naming of Tampa River Center and Boat House Located at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park



Bob Buckhorn meets the criteria for consideration for honorary naming of a Minor City-owned asset per Ordinance 2023-63, Section 2-828 (B)(2), (4), (6), and (7).



Parks & Recreation has reviewed the written request and there are no identified conflicts to the renaming the Tampa River Center and Boat House located at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park the Bob Buckhorn River Center and Boat House.

Proposed Honorary Naming of the Tampa River Center and Boat House located at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park to “Bob Buckhorn River Center and Boat House”

Bob Buckhorn

- After a long history of service to the City of Tampa, Bob Buckhorn was elected as the 58th mayor of Tampa in 2011 for the first of two consecutive terms, during which time he led the City out of the largest recession since the great depression.
- As mayor, Bob Buckhorn annually balanced the City’s budget while he also directed strategic investments by the City resulting in twelve credit rating increases for the City.
- After an initial successful four-year term as mayor, Buckhorn was elected to a second term, receiving 95% of all votes cast evidencing the voters strong support of Mayor Buckhorn’s vision for Tampa and their recognition of the progress that he had achieved during his first term.
- As mayor, Bob Buckhorn made it a priority to focus on public safety, strong neighborhoods, and economic growth while working diligently to improve the overall quality of life in our community.
- During his time in office as mayor, the crime rate in Tampa dropped by over 23%.
- Through his leadership, Bob Buckhorn revolutionized the way the City of Tampa conducted business by streamlining the City’s permitting and regulatory process
- While Buckhorn was mayor, the City permitted \$2.4 billion in new construction in FY2015 and \$2.1 billion in FY2016 (and over \$11 billion was permitted in new construction while he was mayor).
- Bob Buckhorn worked on opening up international markets to Tampa’s small businesses as mayor.
- Through Bob Buckhorn’s vision, the Hillsborough River became the City’s focal point.
- With community involvement, the West River Redevelopment Plan, a part of the [*InVision Plan*](#), was created to transform the area west of the river, and substantial improvements and investments were made to both Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park and nearby streets increasing public access to the Hillsborough River on the river’s west side.
- While Bob Buckhorn was mayor, substandard public housing was replaced with more suitable places to live at all levels of affordability.
- As mayor, Bob Buckhorn laid the foundation for Tampa to compete with other top-tier cities by fostering a culture of inclusiveness, responsiveness, and determination.
- As mayor, Bob Buckhorn also strengthened City neighborhoods and empowered its citizens through programs such as the *Mayor’s Neighborhood University* and the completion of the Tampa Riverwalk.