

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these notables is **The Honorable Robert Francis (Bob) Buckhorn Jr.**, a beloved and popular former Mayor of Tampa, Community Leader, and Visionary; and

WHEREAS, proud of his Irish heritage, Bob was born on July 29, 1958, in Evanston, Illinois and raised in Falls Church, Virginia, and he graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a valued member of the university's lacrosse team, and he was awarded the school's *2019 Outstanding Alumni Award* in the College of Liberal Arts, Department of Political Science; and

WHEREAS, Bob impacted the Tampa Bay region from the time he made the city his home, first serving as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Builders Association of Greater Tampa, and as the Special Assistant to former Tampa Mayor Sandra Freedman, where he worked tirelessly on projects including saving MacDill Air Force Base from being closed by the Pentagon, a major achievement for our community, and throughout his service to our city, he has been recognized by the community many times including being honored with the *Leadership Florida Chair's Award* and the Tampa Bay Business Journal's prestigious *Power 100 Legend* and *Business of Pride* awards; and

WHEREAS, Bob was elected to Tampa City Council in 1995, and re-elected in 1999, and his progressive leadership benefited the entire city including expanding the homestead exemption for seniors, tightening lobbying and ethics rules, promoting quality of life issues, and much more; and

WHEREAS, elected as Tampa's 58th Mayor, Bob served two terms, and his efforts, accomplishments, and bold visions are legendary including leading the city out of the deepest recession since the Great Depression, balancing the City's billion dollar budget eight consecutive years and substantially increasing the City's credit rating, making public safety, strong neighborhoods and economic growth priorities, recharging the downtown core from unremarkable to a vibrant and exciting place, establishing one of Florida's first domestic partnership registries and receiving a perfect Municipal Equity Index score from the Human Rights Campaign, bringing national and world events to our city including the Republican National Convention and major professional sporting events, and his legacy will certainly include his passion for completing the Tampa Riverwalk, creating the Armature Works area that includes multi-family housing, and bringing the Hillsborough River to the city through the incredible renewal of Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa is indebted to our former Mayor Bob Buckhorn for vastly improving the quality of life for all Tampa's citizens and for his dedication and service, and on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, the **Bob Buckhorn River Center** is named in his honor for his many contributions to our community, and it is a fitting tribute to a man whose vision and persistence brought the Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park and its center into a reality, and it speaks to his legacy of excellence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, June 25, 2025, as

“BOB BUCKHORN RIVER CENTER DAY”

in the city of Tampa and urge all citizens to join me in thanking Bob for his unwavering dedication in serving our community, and for his positive impact on our city and contributions to its growth, and in wishing him continued success and happiness in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 25th day of June 2025.



Jane Castor
Mayor