

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, nationwide, the month of February is recognized as Black History Month and people of all ethnicities and nationalities will participate in cultural programs at schools, churches, government buildings, businesses, and community centers to celebrate the many great contributions African-Americans have made to our country and its history; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, to expose all citizens to the rich heritage of African-Americans and their historic struggle, which is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Black historical study is to affirm the humanity of a people once denied citizenship and remind ourselves that our history as a community and as a nation is woven together by our common humanity and common quest for an even greater America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides us all with the opportunity to transcend stereotypes and appreciate Americans' contributions to science, literature, architecture, industry, music, philosophy, religion, education, and other fields of endeavor, and

WHEREAS, the 23rd Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration will be held in Tampa on February 16, 2011 with a theme of *"Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve: the Importance of Historically Black Colleges and Universities"*. On this day various activities are planned including the acknowledgment of the many contributions African-Americans have made to Tampa, the recognition of several city employees for their dedication to our community, and the keynote address by Dr. Walter L. Smith, educator, former President of Florida A&M University, and founder of the Dr. Walter L. Smith Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2011 as

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the various events and celebrations that honor this annual tradition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of February, 2011.



Pam Iorio

Mayor