

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, maternal and infant health are key measures of a nation's health and well-being, yet over the past decade the health of America's mothers and infants has not improved significantly, and, in some cases, has worsened; and

WHEREAS, the United States maternal mortality rates have risen and the infant mortality rates has remained stagnant, and each year 12 percent of American babies are born premature and 8 percent are born with low birth weight; and

WHEREAS, women with chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity not only face their own health challenges during a pregnancy, their infants have increased risks of poor health outcomes. As reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2008, African-American women have a four-times greater risk of pregnancy-related death than white women; and

WHEREAS, millions of American women of childbearing age do not receive proper care, either because they don't have access, or they do not have health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, traditional prenatal care for many women, which usually begins during second or third months of pregnancy, comes too late to prevent many serious risks, and nearly 1.2 million women per year experience complications, illness, or injury during childbirth beyond what would be expected; and

WHEREAS, pregnancy should be considered a year long process, not just nine months, and eliminating bad habits like smoking and alcohol, and incorporating exercise, good nutrition, healthy life style choices, and consultations with health care professionals prior to conception will decrease the risks for both women and infants; and

WHEREAS, the 3rd National Summit on Preconception Care will meet in Tampa, Florida on June 13-14, 2011 to address the importance of preconception care and reduction in the risks of mortality and complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth, and the theme of the convention is "Improving Preconception Health in a New Era of Health Care."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 13, 2011 as

PRECONCEPTION HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE DAY

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in welcoming the participants and leaders attending the 3rd National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care and thank them for their efforts to improve and promote the well-being of mothers and infants.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th day of June, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

