

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Independents Month is a time to celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit represented by locally-owned independent businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, started in Tampa in 2001, the recognition of independent businesses is now a national campaign sponsored by nearly 60 independent business alliances affiliated with the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), as well as numerous national associations and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** locally represented by the Tampa Independent Business Alliance (TIBA), this campaign recognizes the important part locally owned independent businesses play in helping to create and preserve the authenticity and uniqueness of our community while also shaping our city's future; and

**WHEREAS**, the TIBA is a cooperative effort by local independent business members to nurture and promote Tampa's diverse local independent businesses that meet unique needs, create and define our community's culture, and provide stability, accountability, and direct local investment; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa's core of independently owned businesses offer personalized attention, bring life to historic buildings, and pay their employees and local taxes with the income they receive, and many give back to their community by offering goods, services, time and talent; and

WHEREAS, the health of our economy depends on our support of businesses owned by our friends and neighbors, and our dollars spent with them help to insure the economic future of local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa wishes to join in this celebration and salutes the Tampa Independent Business Alliance and their members, and all locally owned independent businesses that are so important to the success of our community.

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

## "INDEPENDENTS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join TIBA as they "Celebrate Independents" and to join me in thanking them for their efforts on behalf of our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of July, 2011

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