

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, the formation of Beulah Baptist Institutional Church began the year before it was formally founded in 1865, and is recognized as the oldest African American church in the city of Tampa, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the founding members, a group of Negroes recently given their freedom from slavery, withdrew from the First Baptist Church of Tampa to organize a church that was given the name of Beulah Baptist Church, and was officially incorporated as Beulah Baptist Institutional Church in 1908; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past 146 years, Beulah Baptist Institutional Church has grown and prospered under the leadership of 14 pastors, beginning with The Reverend Elder Hadley, and includes The Reverend A. Leon Lowry, one of Tampa, Florida's most influential civil rights activists and first African American elected to the Hillsborough County School Board, who served as pastor from 1956 to 1995, when The Reverend Dr. W. James Favorite began his tenure; and

**WHEREAS**, as the membership grew, it became necessary to increase the church facilities by several moves from the original Grand Central Avenue location (now Kennedy Boulevard) to Harrison Street in 1881, then to the corner of Tyler and Pierce Streets in 1917, and in December, 1969 moved to its current home on Cypress Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa is pleased to join Pastor Favorite, the congregation and guests in this 146<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Sunday, August 21, 2011 with the theme ***"Restoring Worship and Building Lives Through the Word,"*** and we extend our best wishes for God's blessings and continued success.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 21, 2011 as

## ***"BEULAH BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH ANNIVERSARY DAY"***

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the rich history and many contributions this church and its members have made to our community through the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2011.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

