

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, two trails that became known as Florida and Nebraska Avenues opened up the land from the town of Tampa, Florida northward to the Hillsborough River at Sulphur Springs, and some of Tampa's earliest settlers began to homestead along these trails planting orange groves and vegetables, raising milk cows and chickens, selling their products to the people in town; and

WHEREAS, as the resort of Sulphur Springs opened on the north shore and tourist and local Tampa town residents wanted to visit the springs, Nebraska Avenue was further developed with the building of a bridge across the river in 1889, and in 1906-1907 a trolley line was built from Tampa to the popular Sulphur Springs site; and

WHEREAS, with the trolley line connecting Tampa to Sulphur Springs, it made it possible for people to live in one area of town and work and travel to another, and in 1911 T. Roy Young developed 40 acres of land three miles north of downtown Tampa naming it Seminole Heights; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Young's company, Seminole Development Corporation, built mostly bungalow style homes that were east-to west oriented with a starting price of \$5,000, and the property encompassed a rectangle bordered by Hillsborough, Central, Wilder and Florida Avenues; and

WHEREAS, other developments quickly followed and during the "Florida Boom" years around 1919 through 1929, Seminole Heights continued to grow and improvements were made to both Florida and Nebraska Avenues, including brick paving, with Florida Avenue being one of the first roads paved with gravel, and with these improvements, soon merchants opened shops and stores to serve the residents; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, the Seminole Heights neighborhood suffered a decline with the lure of newer suburbs to the north, but young people that had moved into the area banded together with the remaining original families and created neighborhood and civic associations for a resurgence that led to preserving and restoring the neighborhood, combating roadway intrusion, and encouraged compatible commercial development, and these associations are active today and continue to be activists for their community; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of their 100th anniversary, Greater Seminole Heights will host a Centennial Birthday Party on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at the Seminole Heights Garden Center from noon to 4:00 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 17, 2011 as

"SEMINOLE HEIGHTS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, in honor of their 100th year and the vital role Seminole Heights played in our history, and encourage all citizens to join me in congratulating the community on this milestone and thanking the residents for their dedication to their neighborhood.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of September, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor