

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the first *Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day®* was held on October 10, 2001 to bring awareness to the public about major causes of transportation fatalities, and their avoidance, and to advocate for improvements to traffic safety laws; and

WHEREAS, while traffic crashes have declined in recent years, nationally they continue to cause about 34,000 fatalities, 2.3 million injuries, and have been the leading cause of death for children ages 3 through 14; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "**Don't be driven to distraction – Drive to arrive!**" brings attention to the problem of distracted driving, which is any activity that takes a driver's concentration away from the task of driving; and

WHEREAS, one solvable distraction is unrestrained or unsafely restrained children, and the use of a booster seat gives the child a much greater chance of surviving a crash injury free; and

WHEREAS, spinal cord damage, internal bleeding, and death are more likely in auto accidents involving young children that are not safely restrained in booster seats, and a young child is four times as likely to experience an injury to the head and neck, and three times as likely to experience an abdominal injury when restrained with a seat belt versus a booster seat; and

WHEREAS, children deserve to be protected and the use of a booster seat will give a child a much greater chance of surviving a crash injury-free, and drivers can better concentrate on safe driving when they know children are securely and properly restrained; and

WHEREAS, October 10, 2011 is the Eleventh Annual "*Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day®*" and the City of Tampa is proud to participate in this nationwide effort to reduce fatalities on our roadways.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 10, 2011 as

"PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY®"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to help save lives by safely retraining children and spreading these important messages throughout our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3rd day of October, 2011.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

