

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), approved by Congress in 1975, is a refundable federal income tax credit for low/moderate income working individuals and families. Devised to improve their quality of life by encouraging the use of this refund for necessities, such as reliable transportation, safe housing, college funds or savings, this credit also improves the economy by bringing in and circulating more money into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, each year, millions of dollars of Earned Income Tax Credits go unclaimed by the working families in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. **The Prosperity Campaign of Hillsborough & Pinellas Counties** is working to substantially increase the number of families claiming EITC dollars, with additional goals to provide access to financial education and other asset building programs for low and moderate income working people and families; and

WHEREAS, this campaign is a unique collaboration of public, private and nonprofit organizations throughout Hillsborough County such as the cities of Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City, the Internal Revenue Service, AARP, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Family and Aging Services, and many more businesses and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, through this effort, eligible citizens can receive free tax preparation by volunteer preparers at more than 30 sites throughout Hillsborough County ensuring that those eligible for EITC will receive their full, earned share; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is proud to share in this effort of promoting economic opportunity and financial education to our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 20, 2012 as

"FREE TAX PREPARATION AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and commend all those taking part in this campaign for their dedication to providing our citizens with the knowledge and tools for improved financial self-sufficiency and encourage individuals and families to take full advantage of the many benefits afforded them by the EITC.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th day of January, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

