

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, known as HIV/AIDS, was first detected in the United States thirty years ago and the epidemic is now entering its fourth decade; and

WHEREAS, while scientific advances and expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis and treatment can help reduce transmission and prevent further suffering, it is still vital to educate the public on how they can protect themselves and others from this preventable disease, and on the importance of voluntary testing; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA), the largest and oldest advocacy group for people living with HIV/AIDS, was founded in 1983 and launched the National HIV Testing Day Campaign in 1995 to increase testing around the nation so that more Americans know their status; and

WHEREAS, NAPWA advocates that learning one's status empowers the individual, and the goal of increased testing by ten percent every year, in every city in the nation, would dramatically alter the course of the disease; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2012, with the theme "**Take the Test, Take Control**" the NAPWA organization, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national and local entities across the country, will raise awareness about the importance of HIV testing, and endeavor to educate the public on the availability of effective treatments, how to safeguard one's health, and how each person can help to bring the epidemic under control.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 27, 2012 as

"NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of this disease, seek out testing and counseling to learn about their HIV status and thank the National Association of People Living with AIDS for its dedication in bringing awareness to the communities of our nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18th day of June, 2012.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor