

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, mental health is an essential part of overall health, and it is vital that each individual has equal opportunity for early access to screening, assessment and referral to treatment, and individuals with mental illness and their families need to stay informed so that they can exercise choice over their care decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, although mental illness affects approximately 60 million Americans, regardless of age, gender, and ethnicity, the U.S. Surgeon General reports that minorities are less likely to receive diagnosis and treatment for their mental illnesses, have less access to and availability of mental health services, and often receive a poorer quality of mental health care; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to eliminate disparities of mental health care by promoting well-being for all people and ensuring equality of access, delivery of services and improvement of outcomes for those with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is dedicated to building better lives for those affected by mental illness and is focused on raising awareness around the topic of mental health in minority areas, and collaborates with partners for increased education so that we as a community can better support those in need of aid; and

**WHEREAS**, National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month was founded in 2008 in honor of Bebe Moore Campbell, mental health advocate and co-founder of NAMI Urban Los Angeles, with the goal of creating mental health awareness and eliminating stigma among diverse communities.

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

## **“NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and welcome all citizens to join me in thanking NAMI and dedicated mental health professionals, advocates and support groups for their commitment to building better lives for those affected with mental illness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2012.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

