

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, construction on the Floridan Hotel in downtown Tampa, Florida began in 1926, and the majestic hotel opened for the first time in 1927, featuring 19 floors with 400 rooms costing \$1.9 million to build, and standing as Tampa's tallest building until 1960; and

WHEREAS, since the grand opening in 1927, the Floridan was host to celebrity notables such as Elvis Presley, James Stewart, Gary Cooper and John F. Kennedy, and then closed to travelers in 1966 to serve as a rooming house, and subsequently closed its doors in 1989 after it was damaged by fire; and

WHEREAS, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996, the Floridan Hotel was purchased in 2005 by Antonios Markopoulos, who has devoted his energy and resources to its renovation; and

WHEREAS, the 82 year-old icon has undergone extensive renovations over the past seven years with the goal of restoring the original grandeur of the historic hotel — it includes magnificent crystal chandeliers, olive and gold couches and chairs, gleaming marble floors, wrought iron banisters and octagonal inlay ceilings, and will once again feature the Sapphire Lounge, Crystal Dining Room and other amenities; and

WHEREAS, the beautifully renovated boutique hotel that captures its early years is now known as the **Floridan Palace**, and features 195 rooms, 15 junior executive suites, three penthouse suites and a large capacity ballroom, and after more than two decades of vacancy, the original signature roof-top sign will shine and its doors opened on July 28, 2012 with a ribbon cutting event that celebrates the grand opening of this landmark of Tampa's heritage, and welcomes a new era of visitors.

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 28, 2012 as

"FLORIDAN PALACE DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and welcome all citizens of Tampa to join me in celebrating the vision and dedication of Antonios Markopoulos in the preservation of this historic hotel and thank all involved in this project for the important contributions they have made to our community and heritage.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of July, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

