

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, cellular phones provide a number of services that enhance our lives in ways that not long ago were unimaginable and provide various means of communicating with one another, including text messaging; and

WHEREAS, text messaging is the main mode of communication for most American teenagers, with half of all teens sending between 21 and 70 texts per day, and approximately 90 percent of those teens expect a reply within five minutes of sending their message; and

WHEREAS, texting while driving takes one's eyes off the road for an average of five seconds and a driver that sends a text message not only jeopardizes his or her safety, but also the safety of passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers; and

WHEREAS, a Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study showed those who send text messages while driving are 23 times more likely to be involved in accidents, including those causing fatalities, and an AT&T, Inc. survey revealed that 43 percent of American teenage drivers admitted to texting while driving even though 97 percent know it is dangerous; and

WHEREAS, motivated by the frightening statistics related to distracted driving by text messaging, AT&T is committed to putting an end to texting and driving with its "It Can Wait" campaign that focuses on educating the public, especially teenagers, on the dangers of texting and driving, and has also established "No Text On Board – Pledge Day" on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 to encourage others to make a lifelong commitment to never text and drive; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim September 19, 2012 as

"NO TEXT ON BOARD – PLEDGE DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and encourage all residents to take the pledge to never text and drive.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of September, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

