

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, over ten million Americans of all ages and ethnicities are affected by blinding retinal diseases including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, Stargardt disease and Usher syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the **Foundation Fighting Blindness** was founded in 1971 with the mission to drive the research to save and restore sight and is part of an effort to cure these devastating afflictions, and the organization continues to fund cutting-edge research in genetics, gene therapy, transplantation, artificial retinal implants, and pharmaceutical and nutritional therapies; and

WHEREAS, although modern medicine is still in the process of providing effective treatments for many of these ocular diseases, there has been significant improvement in our understanding of the eye, and the Foundation Fighting Blindness urges us to remember that **“A Cure is in Sight”** and as promising treatments move into human studies, the need for research funding is critical; and

WHEREAS, **VisionWalk** is the national signature fundraising event of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, established in 2006 to raise awareness and fund sight-saving research, and has raised over \$19 million since its inception; and

WHEREAS, by participating in VisionWalk each year, the communities of our nation are enlightened to the importance of healthy vision, retinal diseases, and the work being done to save sight for those affected with blinding conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Area Chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness is hosting the 5th Annual Tampa Bay VisionWalk in Al Lopez Park on October 27, 2012, whereby many dedicated members of the community will join together in an effort to raise over \$50,000 for those afflicted by retinal degenerative diseases; and

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

“TAMPA BAY VISIONWALK DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and encourage all members of the community to come together for this worthwhile event and thank the Foundation Fighting Blindness for their commitment to research and cures for retinal diseases.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, on this 22nd day of October, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor