Proclamation

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, hosted by Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay, the India Festival is an annual event that celebrates the rich heritage of two of the greatest nations, India and the United States of America, and its mission is to create awareness of the Indian culture; and

WHEREAS, one of the largest Indian cultural events in the United States, the first India Festival was chaired by Dr. Kiran Patel in 1988 and held at the University of South Florida's Sun Dome, attracting over 3,000 people locally and from around the nation, and in recent years the event has surpassed 10,000 in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the American citizens of the Indian community have greatly influenced the development of the Tampa Bay area by their generous philanthropy, cultural promotions, and active participation in educational, scientific, and health fields, and the India Festival provides the opportunity to showcase these contributions; and

WHEREAS, this 25th Annual Tampa Bay India Festival will provide an opportunity for local residents to explore, learn and experience Indian culture through art, music, jewelry, clothing, artifacts, and authentic Indian food, and will feature dancing and singing competitions, a fashion show, and over 150 vendor booths; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds from the Festival will benefit the youth of the community by promoting cultural activities and providing local college and university teams the opportunity to participate in Art and Dance competitions; and

WHEREAS, this Silver Jubilee Celebration event will be held on November 2-3, 2012 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, and the City of Tampa is honored to join in this celebration which further exemplifies the diversity of our community's culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 3, 2012 as

"INDIA FESTIVAL DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating the Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, and in thanking them for organizing the annual India Festival that provides the opportunity to celebrate the rich Indian culture.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 2nd day of November, 2012.

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Mayor