

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, worldwide 15 million babies are born prematurely each year and more than 1 million of those die as a result of being born too soon; and

WHEREAS, premature birth affects one in every eight babies born in the United States and threatens the lives and health of more than half a million babies every year; and

WHEREAS, a premature baby is one who is born before completing 37 weeks of pregnancy, and those born too early may need to stay in the hospital longer or have more health problems than those born full-term, and millions of children face lifelong learning challenges and health issues such as autism, cerebral palsy, apnea, anemia, infections, and respiratory, hearing and vision problems; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes continues to lead the fight against premature birth and created the *Prematurity Campaign* in 2003 to raise awareness and funding for research, and its mission is to help mothers have full-term pregnancies and find the causes of prematurity that threaten the health of babies; and

WHEREAS, with advances in medical care and Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) within many major hospitals, premature babies are more likely to survive today than ever before, and in our community Tampa General Hospital's Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit cares for premature and critically ill newborns in a state-of-the-art facility; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of **World Prematurity Day** on Saturday, November 17, 2012 the March of Dimes and Tampa General Hospital will host a **NICU Baby Shower** for mothers who have, or have had children in the NICU at Tampa General Hospital located on Davis Islands in Tampa, Florida.

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 17, 2012 as

"PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and encourage all citizens to support the March of Dimes and other programs in the effort to fund research and services to ensure every baby is given a healthy start.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, 14th day of November, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

