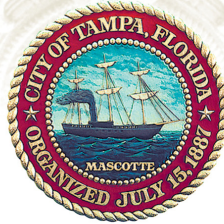


Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa, Florida takes great pride in recognizing the rich history of our community, and specifically Historic Ybor City, founded in 1886 by cigar manufacturers, and its significance as home to the cigar industry in America; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods of Ybor City and soon thereafter West Tampa were populated by thousands of immigrants, including those from Spain, Cuba and Italy, and these dedicated citizens would work in the cigar factories as highly skilled artisans rolling cigars, making cigar bands and cigar boxes; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1900's Tampa was known as the *Cigar Capital of the World* and the output by Tampa workers by 1929 exceeded 500,000,000 cigars; and

WHEREAS, the architectural styles of the historic buildings in Ybor City and West Tampa including cigar factories, housing for the workers called casitas, commercial sites, and ethnic clubs organized by the immigrants have created a unique landscape and ambience, and are representative of Tampa's cultural diversity brought to our community through the cigar industry; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of the rich history the immigrant families brought to Tampa over a century ago, the **Tampa Cigar Festival** will be held on December 1, 2012 at Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park in downtown Tampa; and

WHEREAS, during this festival, over 4,000 cigar enthusiast will have the opportunity to experience the finest hand-made premium and boutique cigars, libations, traditional Tampa food and delicacies, entertainment and activities, and a portion of the event proceeds will benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs – *Paws for Patriots*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim December 1, 2012 as

“TAMPA CIGAR FESTIVAL DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents and visitors to join me in recognizing the importance that the cigar industry has played in history of our city, and thank the organizers and supporters of the Tampa Cigar Festival for this opportunity to celebrate our rich heritage.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of December, 2012.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

