

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, The United States of America was founded on the principle that all people are born with an unalienable right to freedom, and liberty and human rights are fundamental; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is modern day slavery practiced through forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a 34 billion dollar a year industry, second to drug smuggling, with an estimated 27 million slaves around the world, of which approximately two million may be in the United States of America, and the victims of human trafficking are citizens and immigrants, men, women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, with traffickers in human beings viewing Florida as transit, and a destination and recruiting point, the State of Florida and local governments encourage the efforts of local agencies and organizations who protect against violations of human rights, especially victims of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Florida must also work together to end human trafficking through education, prevention, and prosecution, and victims of human trafficking need support in order to escape and recover from their victimization, which includes violence or threats of violence, isolation, sleep deprivation, confiscation of documents, and threats of deportation or imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, although laws to prosecute perpetrators and to assist the victims of human trafficking have been enacted in Florida, awareness of the issues surrounding human trafficking, especially for those people most likely to come into contact with victims, is essential to recognize, report and intervene.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 2013 as

***“NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”***

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join together nationally and as a global community to provide a safe haven by protecting the victims and prosecuting the traffickers, and raise awareness about human trafficking.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

