

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha** is a spiritual, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to improving society through individual growth by fostering the Hindu ideals of faith, unity and selfless service; and

WHEREAS, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha reinforces India's ancient traditions and rituals that are as relevant today as they were centuries ago through activities, preserving ancient art and architecture, promoting a healthy lifestyle through yoga and diet, and celebrating cultural festivals; and

WHEREAS, the *Diwali Festival*, one of the most well-known festivals, is celebrated throughout India and globally, including the United States of America, and it is known as the "Festival of Lights" for the customary practice of lighting small oil lamps called *diyas* and placing them around the home in courtyards, gardens, verandahs and rooftops; and

WHEREAS, most commonly, Diwali signifies the renewal of life, celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and it heralds the approach of winter and the beginning of the sowing season, and it is traditional to wear new clothing, and share sweets and snacks with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Tampa will host the Diwali Festival on November 3, 2013 at its Temple located at 9556 E. Fowler Avenue in Thonotosassa, Florida featuring a Children's Carnival, Food, and Evening Fireworks to celebrate the Hindu New Year, and invites the community to join in the festivities.

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, 2013 as

"DIWALI DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Tampa for organizing the annual Diwali Festival that provides the opportunity to celebrate the rich Indian culture.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29th day of October, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

