

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force** is a coalition of non-profit and governmental agencies whose mission is to assist refugees in settling, integrating and thriving through education, support and community involvement, and is dedicated to helping all refugees regardless of religious affiliation, race, age, or national origin, as they build new lives in freedom; and

WHEREAS, Florida leads the nation in the number of refugees resettled with more than 29,000 individuals that arrived or became eligible for Refugee Service statewide in 2013, and Hillsborough County has provided services for 11,775 refugees during for the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa, Florida area is a welcoming community for refugees, entrants and asylees who have fled their home country because of persecution or fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a group; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an impartial, non-political humanitarian organization mandated by the United Nations to protect refugees and seek ways to help them restart their lives, and World Refugee Day is held annually on June 20th as a special day when the world takes time to recognize the resilience of displaced people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force is hosting a World Refugee Day Cultural Festival at Jefferson High School in Tampa, Florida on the evening of Thursday, June 12, 2014 to bring awareness to the community of the strength and courage of refugees, and the event will include refugee stories, exhibits, cultural booths, music, dancing, and a fashion show; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa wishes to recognize the important contributions the Tampa Bay Refugee Task Force has made to our community and to extend sincere congratulations to them on the occasion of this special celebration, and a sincere welcome to all newly arrived refugees in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2014 as

“WORLD REFUGEE DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in expressing appreciation to all the organizations involved in this effort for their many contributions to the citizens of our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of May, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor