

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, West Tampa, Florida was established in 1892 when Hugh C. Macfarlane purchased 200 acres of land just west of the Hillsborough River for development, and within just a few short years, thousands of people moved into the area, and on May 18, 1895 West Tampa was incorporated. By 1905 it became Florida's fifth largest city, and in 1925 the City of West Tampa was annexed by the City of Tampa; and

**WHEREAS**, the **West Tampa Chamber of Commerce** was established in 1929 and its mission is to provide leadership and business opportunities that foster growth and quality of life while preserving the historical values of the West Tampa Community; and

**WHEREAS**, the **West Tampa Optimist Club** was founded in 1948 and is committed to "Bringing out the Best in Kids" in the community through its support of civic service clubs such as the West Tampa Boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army, youth sports organizations, and scholarship programs, and its efforts over the years have resulted in many awards and recognitions from Optimist International's national and regional divisions; and

**WHEREAS**, annually the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the West Tampa Optimist Club bestow the ***George Guida Memorial Outstanding Citizen of West Tampa Award*** to an individual for their continuous service to the West Tampa Community and for meeting the criteria of having held an executive office in a civic club or community project, and served in community activities, fundraising or active leadership, and on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at the Annual Recognition Banquet, **Luis Garcia** will be honored for his many years of dedication and contributions to West Tampa; and

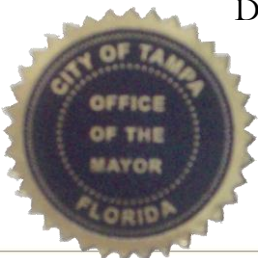
**WHEREAS**, originally from Cuba, Mr. Garcia graduated from the University of Havana and immigrated as a young man to Tampa, Florida, attended the University of Tampa receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, and the University of South Florida where he earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration, one of the program's first graduates. Mr. Garcia is a founder of Garcia & Ortiz, P.A., currently serving as Principal-Senior Shareholder and Director of Health Services, and is a member of the Florida and American Institutes of Certified Public Accountants, an associate member of the Florida Bar, and in 1987 he was named as one of the "Top 100 Practitioners" in the United States by *Money Magazine* and in 1999, named as one of the "30 Most Extraordinary Professionals" in the Florida health care industry by *Florida Medical Business Newspaper*. He has been an active and involved member of the Tampa community and one of the founders of the Hillsborough Education Foundation, and he has held leadership positions in various organizations including serving on the boards of the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Salesian Sisters Partners Circle and Salesian Youth Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa, and Jesuit High School Development.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, January 29, 2015 as

## **"WEST TAMPA DAY"**

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in congratulating Luis Garcia on this deserving recognition, and thanking the West Tampa Chamber of Commerce and West Tampa Optimist Club for the commitment and leadership dedicated to the residents and business community of West Tampa.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor