

# 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 32,700 individuals that arrived or became eligible for Refugee Service statewide in 2014, and Hillsborough County has provided services for 10,840 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Tampa Office, are hosting a **World Refugee Day Citizenship Ceremony** on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, with the theme "*Refugees of Today and Citizens of Tomorrow*," and the mission of the event is to bring awareness to the community of the strength and courage of refugees; 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 Tuesday, June 16, 2015 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

