

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are conditions that affect more than 200 million people worldwide and the term covers a broad range of disorders and syndromes, many of which are misunderstood by the general public; and

WHEREAS, an *intellectual disability* is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and difficulties in a variety of everyday social and practical skills, and a *developmental disability* is attributed to a cognitive or physical impairment that results in limitations in areas such as self-care, language, and mobility; and

WHEREAS, **Best Buddies International**, a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 with almost 1,900 chapters worldwide, was the nation's first unified, social, and recreation program dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with IDD, and is dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Best Buddies assists individuals with IDD become independent and feel valued by society, and they help them to form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communications skills, and it is accomplished through various programs that provide the necessary tools including socialization opportunities and job coaching, and its vision is a world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces and communities that its current efforts and services will become unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, the *Best Buddies Friendship Walk* (BBFW) is an annual event held in cities across the nation to raise funds to support programs, to bring awareness to the community and in honor of friendship, inclusion, and integrated employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and locally the Best Buddies Tampa Bay Friendship Walk is held at Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park in Tampa, Florida on April 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is honored to acknowledge this organization for their efforts in helping our citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities live more productive and independent lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2016 as

“BEST BUDDIES TAMPA BAY FRIENDSHIP DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting their efforts to enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their full potential.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of March, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor