

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, observed annually on December 1, **World AIDS Day** was established in 1988 to increase awareness, raise funds, fight prejudice, and improve education about Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); and

**WHEREAS**, World AIDS Day continues to be an important way to celebrate the extraordinary advances made in the battle against HIV/AIDS, remember those that have lost their lives to this devastating disease, and remind people everywhere that there is still so much more that needs to be done in the fight against it; and

**WHEREAS**, globally, there are 36.7 million people living with HIV, including almost 2 million children, and although the death rate from the disease is slowly declining, millions of people have died as a result of HIV/AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, while scientific advances including antiretroviral drugs and expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment can help reduce transmission and prevent further suffering, it is still vital to educate the public on how they can protect themselves and others regarding this preventable disease, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has adopted the **UNAIDS 2016-2021 Strategy** with the mission of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by year 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 1990, the Francis House in Tampa, Florida serves those impacted by HIV with the mission to provide supportive services in a safe environment that encourages and empowers those affected, and the organization has merged with ASAP (Aids Service Association of Pinellas), a nonprofit Empath Health member that provides medical case management, pharmacy services, group and individual counseling, basic need items, education, free testing and advocacy, and the partnership will strengthen and expand services to a greater number of individuals throughout the Tampa Bay region.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2016 as

## **“WORLD AIDS DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of this disease, offer support to the agencies and volunteers who are working on behalf of all those affected, and congratulate Francis House and ASAP on their joint effort in improving the lives of our citizens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2016.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

