

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the month of February is recognized nationwide as **Black History Month**, and people of all ethnicities and nationalities will participate in cultural programs at schools, churches, government buildings, businesses, and community centers; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, to expose all people to the rich heritage of African Diaspora and the historic African-American struggle, which is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Black historical study is to affirm the humanity of a people once denied citizenship and remind ourselves that our history as a community and as a nation is woven together by our common humanity and common quest for an even greater America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides us all with the opportunity to transcend stereotypes and appreciate African-Americans' contributions to science, literature, architecture, industry, music and the arts, philosophy, religion, education, and many others; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **City of Tampa Black History Committee, Inc. (COTBHC)** was established in 1988 and is dedicated to promoting African-American history and scholastic achievement by implementing programs that inform individuals of all ethnic backgrounds about the rich cultural and historic aspects of Black Americans and people of African descent throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the **29th Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration** held at the Tampa Convention Center on February 28, 2017 with the theme "**Unity in the Community: Joining Hands and Joining Hearts**" will include various exciting activities including the keynote address by former Florida State Senator and Florida State Representative, the Honorable Arthenia Joyner, acknowledgement of the many contributions African-Americans have made to the city of Tampa, state of Florida and the United States of America, and well-deserved recognition of several City of Tampa employees for their dedication to 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 the month of February 2017 as

"BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the various events and celebrations that honor this annual tradition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of February, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor