

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one in eight Americans struggle with food insecurity and hunger including approximately 700,000 people in the Tampa Bay area going hungry every day, affecting children, single parents struggling to support their families, seniors and those on limited incomes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines *food insecurity* as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life resulting from unavailable financial resources for food, and *hunger* refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort; and

WHEREAS, **Feeding America®**, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, began 35 years ago in Phoenix, Arizona, and its mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage the country in the fight to end hunger; and

WHEREAS, locally, **Feeding Tampa Bay** serves the Florida counties of Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sumter, and each year distributes approximately 39,818,765 meals to people struggling with hunger; and

WHEREAS, the month of September is **Hunger Action Month**, a Feeding America® campaign designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger, and it brings attention to the reality of hunger in the United States and promotes ways for individuals and organizations to get involved in the movement to end hunger; and

WHEREAS, Feeding Tampa Bay is promoting the "Don't Label Hunger" initiative to bring awareness to the community that hunger often is viewed as only affecting the homeless population, when in reality, hunger can be anyone including a neighbor, friend, co-worker or student, and the organization will highlight **Hunger Action Day** with a web campaign on Thursday, September 7, 2017 to raise funds to feed our community's hungry and those who are food insecure.

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, September 7, 2017 as

"FEEDING TAMPA BAY HUNGER ACTION DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in thanking the Feeding America and Feeding Tampa Bay organizations, their partners and supporters for their commitment and efforts for over three decades, and to personally contribute to stamping out hunger.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of August, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

