

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the late Reverend Abe Brown, a beloved Tampa, Florida pastor, educator, coach, prison evangelist and civic leader, established **Abe Brown Ministries** (ABM) in 1976 to offer spiritual guidance to those confined in penal institutions, and to assist those transitioning back into society and their families; and

WHEREAS, Abe Brown Ministries provides outreach to evangelize, counsel, and restore children and families that are broken as a result of incarceration, and its mission is to compassionately demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ by helping offenders, ex-offenders and their families achieve productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, Abe Brown Ministries provides ex-offenders hope by assisting them with an intimate spiritual relationship and teaching them valuable life skills that will help them sustain their family, employment and financial strength; and

WHEREAS, Abe Brown Ministries' volunteers travel to prisons to preach the Gospel and form relationships with incarcerated men and women, and the organization helps maintain the family unit by providing transportation for loved ones to visit Florida prisons, facilitating video visits for the children, and distributing food, clothing, and necessities to families with an incarcerated family member; and

WHEREAS, an important part of Abe Brown Ministries' vision of establishing excellence in prison ministry is the support it offers to released ex-offenders including employment opportunities through its nationally recognized *Ready4Work-Hillsborough Program*, providing a residential safe-haven and a transitional training program that helps to prepare individuals for productive living, and it serves as a master referral agency that guides an ex-offender to churches and organizations in the community that may assist with basic needs, housing, education, employment, healthcare, legal assistance and discipleship; and

WHEREAS, the **6th Annual Abe Brown Legacy Walk** is held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the First Baptist Church of College Hill where Reverend Abe Brown served as its Senior Pastor from 1993 to 2007, and its mission is to bring awareness to the community about Abe Brown Ministries and to raise needed funding for its programs including *Crusades, Family Restoration, Family Reunification, Food for Life Pantry, Furniture and Clothing, Transitional Living* and other initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 9, 2017 as

"ABE BROWN LEGACY WALK DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in remembering the contributions and legacy of Reverend Abe Brown, and in thanking Abe Brown Ministries for their dedication to prison ministry that provides hope to many individuals and improves the quality of life for us all.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of July, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor