

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, founded in 1956, the **University of South Florida** (USF) is one of the largest public and global research universities in the United States, and it delivers outstanding internationally recognized programs for undergraduates, graduates, professionals and for the greater community; and

WHEREAS, a top-tier university, USF has developed and grown substantially over the past six decades, and the Tampa Bay region is proud of its many accomplishments including programs in the USF Department of Athletics, home to the **Bulls** and the USF Sun Dome, home court of the USF Men's and Women's Basketball Teams, and the department provides outstanding leadership for the USF National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Intercollegiate Athletics Program and is dedicated to positioning each team and every student-athlete to compete for national championship; and

WHEREAS, the **USF Women's Basketball Team**, under the guidance of Head Coach Jose Fernandez and his staff, continue to bring national and international acclaim to the Tampa Bay area by reaching the **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Basketball Tournament** for four years - in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2017, and Coach Fernandez leads the USF Men and Women's Basketball coaching history with the most wins, in excess of 300 career victories; and

WHEREAS, the USF Women's Basketball Bulls, in the bold colors of **Green** and **Gold**, has earned the admiration of the sports world, fellow athletes and fans alike with an impressive 24 win/9 loss record for the 2016-2017 season, resulting in the fourth trip to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament, fifth consecutive twenty-win season, third consecutive trip to the League Championship Games, and the remarkable team has earned the American Athletic Conference's **2016-2017 Academic Excellence Award** for their efforts on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, sports opens doors of opportunity, and women's participation in athletics has grown in popularity and prominence, and NCAA Division I Women's Basketball is widely followed and accepted nationwide as a marquee sport, and the USF Women's Basketball Team players consistently exhibit and play with professionalism, spirit and dignity, and they serve as positive role models for the youth and fans in our community; and

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, October 26, 2017 as

"USF WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens and USF Bulls fans to celebrate the impressive accomplishments of their Home Team, and support the USF Women's Basketball Team as they enter the 2017-2018 preseason impressively ranked number 19.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of October, 2017.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

