

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the future prosperity of Hillsborough County, Florida depends on nurturing the healthy development of the children currently living, growing, and learning within our diverse community, and research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that communities work together to increase awareness about child abuse and how to stop it because prevention remains the best defense for children, and it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, the courts, and government agencies to succeed in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, with 1,630 entering the foster care system in Hillsborough County last year, the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County** strives to invest in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in the community, its vision is to be recognized as one of the top five places in the nation to raise children, and the organization is committed to reframing the message of child abuse prevention for child welfare and other social service agencies to a message of educational, emotional, physical and social prosperity for all children; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County along with its partners including the Florida Department of Children and Families, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, Ounce of Prevention Florida, Glazer Children's Museum, and Keeping Kids Safe Partnership are engaging communities throughout Hillsborough County in a coordinated effort to prevent child abuse and neglect by promoting awareness of healthy child development, positive parenting practices and types of concrete support families need, especial during Child Abuse Awareness Month, held annually in April; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County and its dedicated partners are hosting a **Child Abuse Prevention Month Kick-Off** on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at the Glazer Children's Museum, and the awareness program includes a reunification event whereby a dependency judge will reunify children with their parent(s) who have successfully completed their parenting case plan; and

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow and reach their full potential in safe and secure homes, neighborhoods and communities, and it is incumbent on each resident in our community to value, nurture, support, and advocate for our children and their well-being.

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 April 2018 as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to make children a top priority and to join in this observance by urging residents to engage in activities whose purpose is to strengthen families and communities to provide the optimal environment for healthy child development.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 22nd day of February, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor