

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa, Florida takes great pride in recognizing the rich history of our community, and specifically Historic Ybor City, founded in 1886 by cigar manufacturers, and its significance as home to the cigar industry in America where, by the early 1900's, Tampa was known as the *Cigar Capital of the World*; and

WHEREAS, Ybor City is named for the late **Vicente Martinez-Ybor** who was born on September 7, 1818 in Valencia, Spain, and he relocated to Cuba at the age of fourteen where he later developed a cigar business and produced his signature brand "*El Principe de Galas*" (Prince of Wales); and

WHEREAS, Vicente Martinez-Ybor arrived in Tampa in 1885 and built a three story brick cigar factory, and with it thousands of immigrants from Spain, Cuba, Italy, Sicily, Romania and Germany served as skilled cigar artisans, and they made the community their home, creating a unique cultural diversity and providing needs for varied products and services, helping to develop a successful and vibrant city; and

WHEREAS, to ensure safe living conditions, Vicente Martinez-Ybor built affordable homes for his workers, paved streets, invested in a streetcar system, created a fire department, brought in doctors and established schools (the *V.M. Ybor School* was named in his honor in 1908), and he contributed to the community in many other ways and he is well-known as one of Tampa's greatest benefactors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Vicente Martinez-Ybor's 200th Birthday, the Ybor City Museum Society is hosting a ***Vicente Martinez-Ybor Bicentennial Celebration*** in the Garden of the Ybor City Museum State Park on September 7, 2018, and the event features special presentations, guest speakers, cigar rolling demonstrations, games, music, refreshments, and a birthday cake.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Friday, September 7, 2018 as

"VICENTE MARTINEZ-YBOR BICENTENNIAL DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents and visitors to join me in recognizing the vast contributions of Vicente Martinez-Ybor, his incredible impact on the development, success and uniqueness of our community with his introduction of the cigar industry to Tampa.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29th day of August, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

