

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the Italian Club of Tampa (L'Unione Italiana) was founded on April 4, 1894, with Bartolomeo Filogamo elected as its first President, and its mission included uniting Tampa, Florida's Italian community, assist Italian immigrants to overcome the social and economic challenges they faced, and to provide cultural enrichment, educational opportunities, health care and financial assistance, and it was one of Tampa's first mutual aid societies; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 11, 1911, the Italian Club of Tampa opened its first building at 1724 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in historic Ybor City, and when it was destroyed by a fire in 1914, a new building was established across the street at 1731 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 1918, one hundred years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic Italian Club was designed by award-winning Tampa architects M. Leo Elliott (1886-1967) and Bayard Clayton Bonfoey (1872-1953) who were credited with designing many of Tampa's historic buildings including Tampa City Hall, and they utilized Italian, Spanish and Greek architecture to create the elegant three story structure that included a cantina, a magnificent theater and auditorium, and a grand ballroom; and

**WHEREAS**, for generations, the Italian Club was a cultural and social center for Tampa communities including Ybor City and West Tampa, and the many amenities provided included game and meeting rooms, classrooms, a library, steam rooms, a gymnasium, bowling alley, recreation rooms, a clinic and pharmacy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Italian Club of Tampa continues to be a popular venue for meetings, celebrations, weddings, corporate functions, galas, theatrical performances, bocce tournaments and more, and the organization strives to preserve Italian heritage and culture, and the history of its beautiful building; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of its milestone anniversary and its contributions to Tampa's diversity and success, the **100 Year Celebration Reception for the Italian Club of Tampa** event is held on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at its historic century-old home on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Ybor City, and the celebration will provide the opportunity to recognize past leadership, honor the Italian community, and reflect on all that has been accomplished over the years.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 17, 2018 as

## ***"THE ITALIAN CLUB OF TAMPA DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to recognize the vital role the Italian community and the Italian Club of Tampa continues to play in the success of our city, and to congratulate them on this 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone and to wish them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

