

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, sight is among the most treasured of mankind's five senses and the ability to see the world around us greatly enhances our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, considered to be an international public health concern, there are currently 285 million people worldwide that are blind or visually impaired, with more than 26,000 of those individuals in Hillsborough County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, modern medicine and ocular advancements now allow people to bequeath one of the most precious gifts of all – the *Gift of Sight* through corneal donation, and the City of Tampa recognizes the importance of raising awareness for Tampa's blind and visually impaired and the encouragement of corneal donation; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1917, the **International Association of Lions Clubs** is the largest non-governmental agency associated with the United Nations, with more than 1.4 million members worldwide, and its mission is to improve visual outcomes and quality of life for those who are blind or visually impaired through innovative ocular endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through the devotion of **Lions Club members**, the **Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research**, headquartered in Historic Ybor City in Tampa, Florida, was founded as an eye bank dedicated to the evaluation and distribution of eye tissue for transplantation, and is the only combined eye bank and ocular research center in the world; and

WHEREAS, in the ongoing battle against blindness through groundbreaking ocular advancements and corneal transplants, Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research has allowed for the restoration of sight in approximately 60,000 men, women and children around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research will host the **2013 Eye Ball Gala** on November 9, 2013 at the T. Pepin Hospitality Centre to bring awareness about the importance of corneal donation, and proceeds from the event will assist in bringing research one step closer to unlocking the cure for blindness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2013 as

“GIFT OF SIGHT DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in expressing appreciation to the Lions Eye Institute for Transplant & Research in this effort to bring awareness about the gift of vision through corneal donation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of November, 2013.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor