

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, provides basic freedoms and rights for all people, and Article 4 of this Declaration states “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms;” and

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the principle that all people are born with an unalienable right to freedom, and liberty and human rights are fundamental; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern day slavery practiced through forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, and the victims include citizens and immigrants, men, women and children; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated there are over 27 million enslaved individuals around the world, of which approximately two million may be in the United States of America, and the United States State Department reports that of the 14,500 to 17,500 people trafficked into the United States each year, 50 percent of those are children; and

WHEREAS, annually, the month of January has been named *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*, with January 11th as *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*, to bring awareness of the need for people to work together to end human trafficking through education, prevention, and prosecution, and the victims of human trafficking need support in order to escape and recover from their victimization; and

WHEREAS, to bring awareness about the movement against Human Trafficking, the **Freedom at the Cross** Men’s Conference will be held at Bridgeway Church in Wesley Chapel, Florida on January 11, 2014, and will offer opportunities for the men in the Tampa Bay community to learn about human trafficking, and how they can become part of the solution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 11, 2014 as

**“FREEDOM AT THE CROSS
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join together nationally and as a global community to provide a safe haven by protecting the victims and prosecuting the traffickers, and raise awareness about human trafficking.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of December, 2013.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor