

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1995, the **Roanoke Organization for Improvement of the Haitian and African Communities**, known as **ROICH**, is a non-profit agency based in Tampa, Florida, and Roanoke, Virginia, and is dedicated to providing resources to immigrants and those in the Haitian and African communities of Florida, Virginia, and other areas of the United States, and it also offers programs globally including Haiti, France, Canada, and the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, the organization's mission is dedicated to developing a diverse community workforce, assisting the underserved, equipping families by providing compassionate social services of the highest quality and value to those in need, while promoting diversity, integration, and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, ROICH is committed to providing a comprehensive range of education and direct service programs to Haitian and African communities, and its goals include helping those communities grow and to continue to anticipate and address the challenges of societal change and socio-economic competitiveness while striving to assist individuals with the process of acclimation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ROICH programs are designed to help children and families achieve their dreams, provide reliable resources and easy access to efficient and modern services that are essential to public health and safety, utilize leadership as means of affecting behavioral change, and promote and assist with safe immigration for Haitian and African individuals; and

WHEREAS, in the Tampa Bay area, ROICH has contributed substantially to the community by providing essential resources to those in need through its Family Support and Resource Centers, Department of Academic and Professional Development, and Food, Advocacy, and other important programs, and the organization has been instrumental in cultural bridging within our diverse neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in honor of its **19th Anniversary**, the ROICH Organization will host a **Celebration Reception** at the Children's Board of Hillsborough County on Friday, June 27, 2014, and attendees will reminisce and reflect on all that has been contributed to Haitian and African communities at home, and around the world, for almost two decades.

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, June 27, 2014 as

"ROICH ORGANIZATION DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the members ROICH for all they have contributed to our community for the past nineteen years and wish them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23rd day of June, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

