

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, after drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is estimated there are over 27 million enslaved individuals around the world, and approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked each year; and

WHEREAS, with human trafficking reported in all fifty states, it is estimated there are between 100,000 and 300,000 child victims in the United States according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the average age of entry into human trafficking for girls and boys is 13 years old; 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, many organizations around the nation and in the Tampa Bay community will host events to help others to learn about human trafficking, and how they can become part of the solution to end this exploitation and crime against humanity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2015 as

“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”

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, not only during the month of January, but year-long.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of December, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor