

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the late Joseph Miyares, a local attorney, donated property along the eastern banks of the beautiful Hillsborough River in Tampa Florida to the late Reverend Mother Joan Marie Wheeler, Order of St. Francis (OSF), and the deed was received in 1958 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Allegany, New York, a religious organization established in 1859; and

WHEREAS, on this land, the **Franciscan Center**, named to honor St. Francis of Assisi (1181 or 1182 – October 4, 1226), was officially established by the late Provincial Superior Mother Lucian Walsh, OSF, in 1970 as a retreat center, ecumenical in nature so people of different faith traditions could enjoy the amenities of the facility and people of all denominations have the opportunity to gather in a serene setting; and

WHEREAS, a non-profit private entity, the Franciscan Center's motto is *Find Your Center*, and it is staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, and dedicated laity who are assisted by loyal volunteers and the staff in carrying out the organization's ministry; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Franciscan Center, in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, is to welcome everyone who seeks spiritual growth through a deeper relationship with God in a place of peace, community, healing and joy, and the facility provides a comfortable location for group programs, private retreats and meetings; and

WHEREAS, for over four decades, the Franciscan Center has provided a peaceful environment whereby individuals and groups may attend retreats and recovery programs, interfaith peace programs and prayer services, annual Franciscan Center events, and other programs including Operation Rescue for first responders and military veterans; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of its **45th Anniversary**, the Franciscan Center is hosting an *Interfaith Peace Prayer Service* on Friday, October 2, 2015 at the Franciscan Center facility, and the event provides the opportunity for reflecting on the organization's forty-five year history, service, accomplishments, and contributions to the Tampa Bay region, and in honor of this significant milestone, a *45th Anniversary Mass* will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Sunday, October 4, 2015 as

“FRANCISCAN CENTER DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in thanking the Franciscan Center, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, staff, volunteers, and supporters for their dedication and commitment to their Mission of Peace and in congratulating them on this 45th Anniversary celebration.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18th day of September, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor