

In Memoriam



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these individuals was **Fernando Noriega, Jr.**, a well-respected public servant, civic leader, and businessman who passed away on Monday, February 8, 2016 at age 81; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noriega was a Tampa, Florida native born on March 7, 1934, the son of the late Fernando and Cesaria Noriega, and grew up in his beloved neighborhood of Historic Ybor City where he played football on the iconic brick-paved streets, attended Orange Grove Elementary, George Washington Middle and Hillsborough High Schools, and thereafter studied education at the University of Tampa, and where he also met and married his late wife Margaret; and

WHEREAS, committed to his beloved city, Mr. Noriega began his employment career at the *The Palace*, an Ybor City department store, and after it closed in 1959, he was a partner in two *Kirby's Mens Wear* stores and managed the Temple Terrace location until 1971 when he dedicated himself to public service with the City of Tampa, beginning his thirty-two year tenure as an Estimator for the Housing Department, advancing in 1979 under Mayor Dick Greco to lead Neighborhood Development, and later he served as Director of Housing and Development Coordination under Mayor Sandra Freedman; and

WHEREAS, his impact and contributions to the city of Tampa was immeasurable during his public service career, and the community realized substantial development and successful ventures including Centro Ybor Mall, Hilton Garden Inn Ybor, and he played a key role in the development of Tampa's TECO Line Streetcar System, Stetson University Law Center, the Marriott Waterside Hotel and Channelside District, and he was instrumental in acquiring the old SunTrust Bank building for the Tampa Police Department's Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, his "*Don't mess with Ybor*" attitude came from his love of the community, and his determination to see it prosper and grow is evident in the impact he had on the historic district's revitalization, charm, and beauty, and he was well-known as its champion, working tirelessly and sharing his passion and vision by mentoring others to see Ybor City's potential; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noriega's numerous honors and recognitions for his dedication and accomplishments include the *Fernando Noriega Jr. Palm Avenue Parking Garage* in Ybor City was named in his honor, he received Ybor City Museum Society's *Tony Pizzo Award*, Ybor City Chamber of Commerce's *Cesar Gonzmart Award*, named *Hispanic Man of the Year* by the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Organization, named *Outstanding Citizen of Ybor*, knighted by the Krewe of the Knights Sant' Yago for his many contributions, and President Bill Clinton offered him a position as Undersecretary in the United States Department of Urban Redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, known as a kind man true to his word and to his friends, and an inspiration to all who knew him, he will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of his wife and family, his high ethical standards and generous, humble nature, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the vast improvements he brought to our community and in all those whose lives he has touched.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Fernando Noriega, Jr. Family, his son Michael, daughter Linda, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15th day of February, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor