

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, April has been designated as *Sexual Assault Awareness Month* to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence, and the National Campaign focuses on healthy sexuality and child sexual abuse prevention; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault continues to be a major social crisis in our society, and non-stranger and stranger rape and sexual assault affect women, children, and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds, and the City of Tampa recognizes the importance of identifying and protecting victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, women, children and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence and these experiences can be devastating for not only the survivor, but also for their family and friends, and to prevent future violations of our citizens, it is crucial to foster public awareness of the causes and effects of sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminate it through prevention; and

WHEREAS, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization, every 107 seconds another American is sexually assaulted, equating to 293,000 new victims every year, and the victims are three times more likely than the average individual to suffer from depression, six times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, thirteen times more likely to abuse alcohol, and four times more likely to contemplate suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay, an alliance of agencies and individuals committed to ending sexual violence, and the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay are dedicated to increasing public awareness and eliminating sexual violence through focusing on **VOICE** – to increase sexual violence awareness, **OUTREACH** – to engage communities, **IMPACT** – through education and collaboration, **CHANGE** – laws and systems to advocate for victims' rights, and working to **EMPOWER** – survivors; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay and the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay are partnering with The Spring of Tampa Bay, a domestic violence shelter, the Pinellas County Rape Crisis Center and Suncoast Center, Inc. in hosting *Take Back the Night* on Saturday, April 30, 2016 in North Straub Park in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the interactive event will include a Candlelight Vigil, Empowerment March, Men's Pledge, Speak-Out, Music Fest, and Resource Fair.

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 April 2016 as

“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join me in recognizing this important initiative geared toward creating a community free from sexual violence and participating in the *Take Back the Night* event.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 22nd day of February, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor