

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, founded in 2011 and launched in 2012, **Everyone Matters** is a grassroots campaign that advocates on behalf of everyone – the right to self-identity without shame, judgment, or attack, and to create an environment that reduces intolerance and fosters inclusiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, discrimination and bullying have direct effects on the physical, emotional, and mental health of individuals, and the Everyone Matters campaign is bringing schools, cities, organizations, and prominent figures together to bring awareness to the important and positive message of inclusiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Everyone Matters is to raise awareness that everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be allowed to be exactly who they are and the campaign celebrates diversity and encourages those individuals that may be affected by discrimination to take pride in their many unique attributes, and open up their hearts to themselves and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the main messages of the **Everyone Matters Campaign** is allowing others to be *who they are* and taking pride in *who we are*, and to join together and create one unified voice advocating for the belief that each of us is unique, and to embrace such uniqueness through projects, including celebrating **Everyone Matters Day** annually on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April; and

**WHEREAS**, Everyone Matters Day offers the opportunity to acknowledge everyone's right to dignity and respect with the freedom to be exactly who they are, and cities, states, schools, and individuals around the world will jointly celebrate their individuality and personhood through community events and social media including the *#IAM Selfie Project* and the *24-Hour Challenge* initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa is honored to join in such a cause that values the dignity and respect of every individual regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, creed, or any other distinguishing feature.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 12, 2016 as

## “EVERYONE MATTERS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in embracing ourselves and each other, and fostering an environment of inclusion and tolerance.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor