

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, José Julián Martí Pérez (1853-1895), known as José Martí, was born in Havana, Cuba and was a beloved poet, journalist, teacher, diplomat, translator, and an important Cuban national hero who dedicated his life to the cause of Cuban independence; and

WHEREAS, hailed as the Apostle of the Cuban Revolution, José Martí began his dream for a democratic republic and full independence for Cuba in his teenage years, creating essays, political articles, and poems including his famous sonnet *10 de Octubre*, and his writings resulted in prison time at age sixteen; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime, José Martí traveled extensively to consolidate support among Cuban expatriates including in the United States, especially in Florida, and he was admired and well-respected by the communities he visited; and

WHEREAS, a great orator, José Martí traveled to Tampa, Florida often to speak to Cuban and Latino tobacco workers in historic Ybor City, and his speeches for independence, human rights and tolerance motivated and united them, instilling pride in their history and heritage, and he fondly called the citizens of Tampa *El Pueblo Fiel* meaning The Faithful Ones; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous monuments, statutes and tributes to José Martí around the world including in his cherished home of Cuba, Rome, Bucharest, New York, and in Tampa, Florida where he is an important part of our rich culture; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate José Martí, and to acknowledge the importance of his life and the Cuban community's influence in Tampa's history, The Cuban Club in Ybor City, the University of South Florida's Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the University of Tampa are sponsoring the **First International Conference on Martí in Tampa** on April 14-16, 2016, and the event features esteemed guest speakers, panel discussions, a Special Collections Tour at the University of South Florida, a guided tour of Historic Ybor City, and a closing Dinner Reception.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2016 as

“JOSÉ MARTÍ COMMEMORATION DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in remembering the contributions of José Martí, and celebrating the effect his life had on the world and in our own community where he has had a profound impact on our unique and rich history.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of March, 2016.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor