

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, founded in 1938, the motto of the **March of Dimes** is *Working Together for Stronger, Healthier Babies*, and its mission is to improve the health of pregnant women, infants and children by preventing birth defects, preterm birth and infant mortality through research, community services, education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has made a real difference in saving babies' lives by funding cutting edge research that leads to lifesaving treatments for fatal birth defects, programs to ensure that more pregnant women and babies receive health services, and education for all Americans about the importance of a healthy lifestyle and prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, premature birth is a tragedy affecting nearly 400,000 families in the United States with 13 million premature babies born worldwide each year, and the March of Dimes is committed to continuing to reduce preterm birth rates until the United States rate is the lowest in the world, and its efforts have resulted in reducing those rates by 9.6 percent in recent years, saving thousands of babies from being born too soon and billions in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes is a valuable organization for the city of Tampa and the families of the community through its endeavors to embrace those who have experienced the birth of a premature baby or a baby born with a birth defect by forming a support system; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes holds an annual campaign, *March for Babies* that puts a face on the March of Dimes mission and provides an avenue to raise public awareness and funding, and \$2.3 billion has been raised since it began in 1970; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes serving the Tampa Bay area is hosting the **March for Babies Walk** on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Amalie Arena, and funds raised during this event will assist the March of Dimes' efforts in continuing their work to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 23, 2016 as

"MARCH FOR BABIES DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all residents to join me in thanking The March of Dimes for their commitment to the babies of our community and their families by helping to give every baby a healthy start.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of April, 2016.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor