

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, mental health is an essential part of overall health, and it is vital that each individual has equal opportunity for early access to screening, assessment and referral to treatment, and individuals with mental illness and their families need to stay informed so that they can exercise choice over their care decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness including major depression, schizophrenia, and disorders such as bipolar, obsessive compulsive, severe anxiety, borderline personality and post-traumatic stress affects approximately one in four people worldwide at some point in life, and it touches all ages, genders, races and nationalities in every community; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of available mental health treatment can increase and complicate an individual's symptoms, and could lead to chronic medical conditions, unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, effective methods for reducing the stigma and isolation associated with mental illness are accomplished by building awareness and understanding of mental illness, increasing access to treatment and ensuring families who are struggling know that they are not alone in their journeys; and

**WHEREAS**, annually, Mental Health Month is observed during the month of May to raise awareness about mental illness, the importance of early detection and accurate diagnosis, and to reduce the stigma and misunderstandings associated with mental illness.

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

## **“MENTAL HEALTH MONTH”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and welcome all citizens to join me in thanking the organizations, dedicated mental health professionals, advocates and support groups for their commitment to building better lives for those affected with mental illness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

