

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1984, the **City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council** is a group of dedicated Hispanic individuals who are appointed by the Mayor to serve as a liaison between City government and the Hispanic community, and are a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials, and they accomplish their goals and objectives through programs, projects and activities; and

WHEREAS, an annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council event, the **Mayor's Latino's Unidos Luncheon** showcases the growing presence and economic impact of Latinos in our city, state and nation, and celebrates enhancements Hispanics have made to our way of life in science, technology, government, business, education, the arts and in so many other important areas; and

WHEREAS, the 18th Annual Mayor's Latino's Unidos Luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the Tampa Convention Center highlights special keynote speaker **Jorge M. Pérez**, Founder and Chairman of The Related Group, a leading and award winning national developer of multi-family residences, and one of the largest Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the late Matilda Martinez Garcia (1919-2016) was a charter member of the City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council who had served since its founding in 1983, and the organization established the **Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award** in honor of her more than three decades of dedication and service, and it is awarded annually at the Latino's Unidos Luncheon to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and the people of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, this year, the *2016 Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award* is presented to **Joe M. Gonzalez**, a respected Tampa Attorney-at-Law and dedicated community leader. Mr. Gonzalez is a charter member of the City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council, and he is a founding member of Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. and the Hispanic Business Institute, and he serves in leadership capacities in many civic, professional and organizations including Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc., Hillsborough County Planning Commission, the Hispanic Defense League, and he is instrumental in raising scholarship funds for area students. Mr. Gonzalez is well-known throughout the community for his outstanding leadership, his devotion in preserving Hispanic history, heritage and culture, and for being an ambassador of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from the Annual Mayor's Latino's Unidos Luncheon assist Hispanic students in financial need, and the University of South Florida, Hillsborough Community College, and the University of Tampa have benefited over the years from the efforts of this Council through the endowment of \$961,000 in scholarships; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 18, 2016 as

"LATINOS UNIDOS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, in honor of this initiative and the Hispanic community's commitment to excellence in education, and ask that all citizens of Tampa support this occasion.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18th day of May, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor