

# In Memoriam



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these individuals was **Carlos Arturo Fuente, Sr.**, a well-respected businessman and community leader who passed away on Friday, August 5, 2016 at age 81; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fuente was a Tampa, Florida native born on May 6, 1935, the son of the late Arturo and the late Cristina Fuente, and he grew up in his beloved Historic Ybor City neighborhood where he began his lifetime of commitment to hard work at age eight, often working two jobs after school that included delivering newspapers, selling fruit, and working in a local drug store, and he demonstrated what would be a lifetime of strength and determination when he contracted polio just prior to his teenage years and defied the odds given him by overcoming its effects and regaining his ability to walk; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa, Florida is well-known for its rich history of cigar making, and Mr. Fuente was a major contributor to that legacy throughout his lifetime which began at an early age, sweeping floors and hand rolling as many as 50 cigars a day for his father, Arturo Fuente, who had established the local business, **Arturo Fuente Cigar Company** in 1912, running it out of his home; and


**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fuente assumed leadership of Arturo Fuente Cigar Company in 1958, and through his dedication, perseverance, and keen business sense, he built the company into one of the largest handmade cigar organizations in the world that produces more than 30 million fine cigars annually, using its own crops of tobacco and rolled in its own factories in Santiago, Dominican Republic, including elite premium blends such as the *Arturo Fuente* and *Fuente Fuente Opus X*. While the Dominican Republic was his adopted home, Mr. Fuente loved his hometown of Tampa and it remains the Arturo Fuente Cigar Company Headquarters; and

**WHEREAS**, a pioneer and icon in the cigar industry, he was esteemed and recognized for his passion for quality cigars, and his high standards to produce the best resulted in receiving numerous high ratings in *Cigar Aficionado* magazine including being named "Cigar of the Year" in 2005, and Mr. Fuente was inducted into the magazine's **Inaugural Hall of Fame** in 1997, and a section of Second Avenue that runs by the old company factory was renamed **Carlos Fuente's Way** in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, known as a kind and humble man, true to his word and to his friends, and an inspiration to all who knew him, he will be forever remembered for his devotion and love of his late wife Anna Louisa Lopez Fuente and his family, high ethical standards, strong work ethics and generous nature, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community, his contributions to our history and unique culture, and in all those whose lives he has touched.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Carlos Fuente, Sr. Family, his sons Carlos, Jr. and Richard, daughter Cynthia, brother Arturo, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their many cherished memories and the impact of his life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

  
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Mayor

