

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, suicide, the act of intentionally causing one's own death and often a result of despair, is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and is considered a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death with approximately 117 suicides every day, claiming more than 42,700 lives each year, and the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk from seeking life-saving help, adding further trauma to the lives of the survivors ; and

WHEREAS, some warning signs that a person may be suicidal includes a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors through what they say or do, especially if the new or changed behavior is related to a painful event, loss, or change; and

WHEREAS, the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (AFSP) was established in 1987, and is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, and advocacy, and its goal is to reduce the annual suicide rate by twenty percent by year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention created *Out of the Darkness Community Walks* with the goal of bringing awareness to suicide, its prevention, and to assist in raising needed funding for education, research, train clinicians, improve intervention programs, and support survivors of suicide loss; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, December 3, 2016, Tampa Bay will join cities across the United States in its *7th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk* at Al Lopez Park, and participants will lead the way in bringing suicide out of the darkness and into the light, and the event will include an informative Resource Fair; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa wishes to join in this public awareness campaign in recognition of the toll suicide places on the families of our community and let those in crisis know that help is available by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

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, December 3, 2016 as

“OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize that suicide prevention efforts are crucial in deterring the preventable loss of human life.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3rd day of November, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor