

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 **Randolph “Junior” Kinsey, Jr.**, a well-respected Educator, Writer and Political Activist who passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2016 at age 78; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kinsey was born in Lamont, Florida on December 28, 1938 to the late Randolph Kinsey, Sr. and the late Rebecca Kinsey, the eldest of six children, and he graduated from Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg, Florida, and thereafter from Florida A&M University; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation from college, Mr. Kinsey began his career inspiring young people as a math teacher and football and basketball coach at Howard W. Blake High School in Tampa, Florida, and when he retired from the Hillsborough County Public Schools, he joined Travelers Insurance, the first African American adjustor hired by the company, and later opened his own agency, specializing in insurance and investigations; and


WHEREAS, Mr. Kinsey was a respected and expert political campaign strategist, serving as campaign manager for many local candidates running for city, county and state offices, and his insight and intelligence was appreciated in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate during his thirteen years as a Legislative Assistant where he excelled at writing and tracking potential laws; and

WHEREAS, known for his wisdom, Mr. Kinsey inspired and challenged readers as a Columnist with the Florida Sentinel Bulletin for almost fifty years featuring his well-read “*Another View*” and “*Sportside With Randy*” columns, and he authored two books, *Another View: The World Through the Eyes of Randolph Kinsey* and *The Burning Question for Blacks, Who are We?*, and his writings were a catalyst for intellectual discussions throughout the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, a leader in the community, Mr. Kinsey served in many capacities including as the founder of the Community Progressive Organization that was established to address community concerns, as a founding member of Mt. Pleasant Standard Based Middle School (now Legacy Preparatory Academy), a founding member of West Tampa Community Development Corporation, he served on the boards of Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), City of Tampa’s Cable Television and the Florida State School for the Deaf and Blind, and he was instrumental in the re-establishment of George S. Middleton and Howard W. Blake High Schools; and

WHEREAS, known as an advocate, a 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 wife and family, his 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 and in all those whose lives he has touched, especially through his teaching and written words.

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 Randolph Kinsey, Jr. Family, his wife Betty, sons Michael and Tarence, Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, brothers, sisters, 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.



Mayor

