

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the state of Florida, including the Tampa Bay area, is subject to an increased risk for severe weather activity that could potentially create heavy flooding, cause widespread power outages, and damage homes and businesses with their high winds, tornadoes, storm surges, and heavy rainfall; and

**WHEREAS**, taking steps toward personal preparedness and ensuring our households, workplaces, schools and institutions of higher learning, houses of worship and community facilities are prepared for disaster can reduce fatalities and economic devastation following a major incident; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Florida Division of Emergency Management**, whose mission is to ensure Florida is prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them, and mitigate against their impacts, and the organization annually promotes **Severe Weather Awareness Week**, this year held January 23-27, 2017 with Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> as the Great Tornado Drill, to encourage citizens to be aware of and prepare for any potential disasters, and to bring attention to the destruction tornadoes can cause, especially in Florida where the state leads the nation in tornado frequency; and

**WHEREAS**, the *City of Tampa Office of Emergency Management* is dedicated to its mission of minimizing the loss of life, personal injury, and damage to property and the environment from disasters, natural or manmade events, and it is partnering with other federal, state, local, private and volunteer agencies in joining with the Florida Division of Emergency Management in promoting Severe Weather Awareness Week and the Great Tornado Drill with the *City of Tampa PrepareAthon* on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to encourage individuals to take action and increase public emergency preparation activities so they will know what to do and how to mitigate damage; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that we remain vigilant and strive to increase our readiness for all possible severe weather events so as to ensure the highest levels of protection for loved ones, friends, neighbors and visitors. Citizens and businesses can participate in the City of Tampa PrepareAthon by registering for the Alert Tampa emergency notification system, installing a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and on January 25, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. monitor the NOAA Weather Radio for messages that will alert the drill has begun.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of January 23-27, 2017 as

## ***“SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK”***

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all residents to use the City of Tampa PrepareAthon opportunity to learn how best to prepare and protect themselves, their families and their property in the event of a tornado or major weather related incident in our area.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor