

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, Howard W. Blake Comprehensive High School, originally the Don Thompson Vocational High School, opened its doors in West Tampa, Hillsborough County in 1956 to serve African American students in the Tampa community, and was named for the late Howard Wesley Blake, a well-known and dedicated educator, and long-serving Booker T. Washington Junior High School Principal; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1971, the desegregation plan of Hillsborough County closed the high school and it then became the Blake 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 1993, dedicated Blake High School alumni petitioned the Hillsborough County School Board to begin the process of building a new Howard W. Blake High School, and in 1997, dropping the word Comprehensive from its name, Howard W. Blake High School, known as Blake High School and home of the Yellow Jackets, opened on the west banks of the Hillsborough River; and

**WHEREAS**, with a strong commitment to excellence, Blake High School is well-known for providing a quality education with its traditional curriculum and as a Performing and Visual Arts Magnet school, and it has produced many distinguished graduates that have contributed greatly to the Tampa community, the state of Florida, the nation and globally, and they include civic, public and business leaders, and many students developed their talents and went on to successful careers as popular musicians, actors, visual artists, dancers, writers, producers, and directors; and

**WHEREAS**, Blake High School has recognized the legacy of outstanding alumni and educators with the naming of campus facilities for them including the *Don Thompson Theater*, the school's original namesake, the late Don Thompson who served as the Director of Vocational Education for Hillsborough County, and the *James Williams Stadium* for the late James "Big Jim" Williams, former Blake High School Coach; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa recognizes the many accomplishments of Howard W. Blake High School, its dedication to providing quality education to the youth of the Tampa community that maximizes their potential, gives them the tools to be successful and enriches their lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim October 6, 2017 as

## **"HOWARD W. BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL LEGACY DAY"**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in congratulating Principal Jesse Salters, students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters on Blake High School's legacy of excellence and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

