

# 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 **Alton Maurice White, Sr.**, a well-respected Educator, Public Servant, Civil Rights Activist and Trailblazer who passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2017 at age 77; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. White was born in Winter Park, Florida on July 7, 1940 to the late Moses White and the late Lucille Williams White, moving with his family to Tampa as a child, and he was greatly influenced by his well-known and generous father, spending time after school assisting him in the family businesses, and he graduated from George S. Middleton High School where his hard work and talents earned him an athletic scholarship to Florida A&M University (FAMU), where he excelled as a fullback and corner linebacker on the FAMU Rattler football team, joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and where he began his lifelong avocation for civil and social justice and against segregation; and

**WHEREAS**, upon graduation from FAMU in 1963, Mr. White inspired young people as a teacher and coach at Mercer University in Georgia, and thereafter in Hillsborough County Public Schools prior to his stellar public service career, and his leadership as the Executive Director of the Model Cities Program and the Tampa Housing Authority, and as the Administrative Assistant for Tampa Mayor Bill Poe, brought about improved living conditions for Tampa families and funding for projects that resulted in employment opportunities for hundreds of citizens, and he was also an executive in the insurance industry; and


**WHEREAS**, among his many trailblazing endeavors, Mr. White was the first African American to run for Mayor of Tampa, appointed to the Florida Educational Television and Radio Advisory Board and to serve on the Florida State Medical Advisory Board, and he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and he was deservingly recognized for his lifelong commitment and exemplary service in improving the lives of others by Representative Kathy Castor in a speech on the floor of the Florida House of Representatives during Black History Month; and

**WHEREAS**, well-known for his wisdom, selfless dedication and desire for optimum quality of life for all Tampa residents, Mr. White served as a trustee for Hillsborough Community College and had considerable impact in the building of its Ybor City Campus in spite of great opposition, and he was admired and respected by many, serving as a mentor to businessmen, politicians, and community leaders and organizations throughout his life; and

**WHEREAS**, an inspiration to all who knew him, an advocate for equality and civil rights, and a man committed to his community and friends, Mr. White 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.

**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 Alton Maurice White, Sr. Family, his wife Geraldine, son Alton, Jr., daughters Robyn and Alena, 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.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

  
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Mayor

