

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, provides basic freedoms and rights for all people, and Article 4 of this Declaration states “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms;” and

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America was founded on the principle that all people are born with an unalienable right to freedom, and liberty and human rights are fundamental; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is modern day slavery practiced through forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, and the victims include citizens and immigrants, men, women and children; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated there are 215 million children around the world in forced labor with approximately half of them involved in its worst forms, and the individuals trafficked and enslaved are deprived of basic freedoms, access to adequate education, healthcare and necessities; and

**WHEREAS**, locally, The Gentleman’s Course, dedicated to at-risk youth in the Tampa Bay area and United for Human Rights Florida are committed to raising awareness and leading the fight to end human trafficking in our community, state, nation and worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, annually, the month of January has been named *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*, with January 11<sup>th</sup> as *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*, to bring awareness of the need for people to work together to end human trafficking through education, prevention, and prosecution, and The Gentleman’s Course and the United for Human Rights Florida will host an awareness event at the grand opening of the King Forest Recreation Center on Saturday, January 13, 2018.

**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 month of January 2018 as

## **“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join together nationally and as a global community to provide a safe haven by protecting the victims and prosecuting the traffickers, and raise awareness about human trafficking, not only during the month of January, but year-long.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

