

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential part of overall health, and it is vital that each individual has equal opportunity for early access to screening, assessment and referral to treatment, and individuals with mental illness and their families need to stay informed so that they can exercise choice over their care decisions; and

WHEREAS, mental illness and disorders include depression, schizophrenia, and disorders such as bipolar, obsessive compulsive, severe anxiety, borderline personality and post-traumatic stress affects approximately one in four people worldwide at some point in life, and it touches all ages, genders, races and nationalities in every community; and

WHEREAS, lack of available mental health treatment can increase and complicate an individual's symptoms, and could lead to chronic medical conditions, unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, effective methods for reducing the stigma and isolation associated with mental illness are accomplished by building awareness and understanding of mental illness, increasing access to treatment and ensuring families who are struggling know that they are not alone in their journeys; and

WHEREAS, annually, Mental Health Month is observed during the month of May to raise awareness about mental illness, the importance of early detection and accurate diagnosis, and to reduce the stigma and misunderstandings associated with mental illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as

“MENTAL HEALTH MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and welcome all citizens to join me in thanking the organizations, dedicated mental health professionals, advocates and support groups for their commitment to building better lives for those affected with mental illness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7th day of May, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

