

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1983, the **City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council** is a group of dedicated Hispanic individuals who are appointed by the Mayor to serve as a liaison between City government and the Hispanic community, and are a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials, and they accomplish their goals and objectives through programs, projects and activities; and

WHEREAS, an annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council event, the ***Latino's Unidos Luncheon*** showcases the growing presence and economic impact of Latinos in our city, state and nation, and celebrates enhancements Hispanics have made to our way of life in science, technology, government, business, education, the arts and in so many other important areas, and proceeds from the event have assisted Hispanic students in financial need over the years through scholarship endowments totaling \$1,006,000; and

WHEREAS, the 20th Annual Mayor's Latino's Unidos Luncheon on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at the Hilton Downtown Tampa Hotel highlights special keynote speaker **Manuel D. Medina**, Chief Executive Officer of Cyxtera Technologies, Managing Partner of Medina Capital, and Founder and Chairman of the Board of eMerge Americas, and well-known leader in the cyber-security field; and

WHEREAS, the late Matilda Martinez Garcia (1919-2016) was a charter member of the City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council who had served since its founding in 1983, and the organization established the ***Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award*** in honor of her more than three decades of dedication and service, and it is awarded annually at the Latino's Unidos Luncheon to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and the people of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, this year, the *2018 Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award* is presented to **Maria Hernandez**, respected Program Administrator with Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) where she was hired as its first employee over thirty-five years ago, and she has remained committed to the organization's mission of working to transform the lives of people regardless of age, background, or belief, and in helping communities build healthier, happier and hope-filled tomorrows. A refugee from Cuba in 1967, Ms. Hernandez has empathy for others and devoted herself to immigrant individuals and families living in the Tampa Bay area, touching the lives of thousands of people throughout her career. Her efforts over the years has had a positive and lasting impact, not only for the individuals she has helped to transition into successful lives in their new home in the United States, but in elevating the community with economic growth and cultural diversity. Ms. Hernandez is well-known for her tenacity, her passion for assisting others, and her dedication to the objectives of Lutheran Services Florida, especially the immigrants and refugees who receive services. Ms. Hernandez serves as an inspiration to others and her efforts and contributions to the Tampa Bay community are greatly appreciated.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 8, 2018 as

"LATINOS UNIDOS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, in honor of the Hispanic community's commitment to excellence, and ask that all citizens of Tampa support this occasion and to congratulate Maria Hernandez on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of May, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor