

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, also known Juneteenth Independence Day, represents a very important milestone in American history, when our nation fulfilled its creed of being “the land of the free;” and

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the *Emancipation Proclamation* September 22, 1862 with an effective date of January 1, 1863, and more than two years later on June 19, 1865, General Gordon Grainger read *General Order Number 3* in Galveston, Texas, announcing freedom to the last of the enslaved Americans who had yet to be told; and

WHEREAS, this event has come to be known as Juneteenth which is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth*, and it is not just an African American celebration, but a very significant event in the United States of America’s history, signaling the last day of American slavery, and for that reason it is recognized and treasured by freedom-loving people throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, and it encourages continuous self-development and respect for all cultures; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **Tampa Bay Juneteenth Coalition** encourages cultural awareness of history through education, and the organization will present a month-long *Juneteenth Celebration* including a Youth Summit, the 100 Black Men of Tampa Bay, Inc. Luncheon, the Miss Juneteenth Pageant, and an Awards Banquet highlighting guest speaker Reverend Dr. Ronald Meyers, National President of the Juneteenth Foundation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim June 19, 2018 as

“JUNETEENTH AWARENESS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to recognize the importance this event played in our nation’s history and to participate in the Juneteenth celebrations.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor

