

# Proclamation



*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. **John Fontana**, President of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fontana has been a part of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since childhood through his mother Jean Fontana's employment with the Seminole Tribal Government Corporate Office, and upon graduation from Florida State University with a degree in Finance in 1980, he began his career with the organization as Staff Accountant and Bingo Master; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, Mr. Fontana transferred to Seminole Casino Tampa as Assistant to the Managing Partners, and his acute business sense and dedication led to being named General Manager in 1987, and thereafter as President of Seminole Hard Rock Support Services; and

**WHEREAS**, under Mr. Fontana's leadership, the award-winning Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa has grown to be one of the largest and most profitable casinos in the United States, currently the largest in the state of Florida that contributes greatly to the economic success of the Tampa Bay area, and a \$700 million site expansion and enhancement is planned; and

**WHEREAS**, believing in investing in the Tampa community and impacting the quality of life for its residents, Mr. Fontana established numerous charitable and philanthropic initiatives and partnerships resulting in millions of dollars benefitting over 100 local charities including The Angelus Group Home, the De Bartolo Family Foundation, Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay, the Bill Edwards Foundation, Metropolitan Ministries, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa is a title sponsor of both the annual *Pinktober* benefitting Making Strides Against Breast Cancer and the *Gasparilla Parade of the Pirates*; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Fontana's expertise has led to consulting for other casino facilities nationally, and he serves on the board of various organizations such as the Florida Council for Compulsive Gambling, the Tampa Bay Partnership, the Brandon Foundation, Visit Tampa Bay, and Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, in honor of John Fontana's retirement after thirty-eight years of dedicated service to Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa, the organization is hosting a **Retirement Celebration** on Thursday, July 12, 2018, and the event provides an opportunity to show appreciation for his leadership, mentoring of others throughout his career, commitment to the company and staff, and all he has been accomplished. The City of Tampa is honored to congratulate him on his retirement, and grateful for the many contributions he has made to our community and citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, July 12, 2018 as

## **"JOHN FONTANA DAY"**

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his contributions to our community and wishing him continued success and happiness in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

