

In Memoriam



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. One of these individuals was **Carla Deneen Lewis**, a Tampa, Florida native, and well respected and beloved community leader and employee of the City of Tampa, who passed away on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at age 54; and

WHEREAS, Carla was born on July 22, 1964 and raised in the Port Tampa neighborhood, graduating in 1982 from Thomas R. Robinson High School where she excelled, was popular, and her enthusiasm and love of dancing made her a valued member of the Starlets, and she continued her education with an Associate Degree in Mass Communications, a Bachelor's Degree cum laude in Business Administration, a Master's Degree summa cum laude in Organizational Management and Leadership, and she completed the FBI Citizens Academy; and


WHEREAS, her efforts with Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections Office led to Carla's appointment in 2003 by then Mayor Pam Iorio to the City of Tampa's Neighborhood & Community Relations Office in 2003 and in 2007 as Liaison with the Mayor's African American Advisory Council (MAAAC). Her knowledge, genuine concern and passion for Tampa's neighborhoods made her ideal in her role as Neighborhood Liaison for the City's Community Partnerships and Neighborhood Engagement Division where she not only facilitated community outreach and support on behalf of the Mayor's Office, but she went above and beyond to be the voice of neighborhoods, ensuring they were engaged and the quality of life elevated, including leading the very successful *Mayor's Neighborhood University* classes and other initiatives that benefited her beloved Tampa and its residents; and

WHEREAS, recognized by all as Carla "*Can Do It!*" Lewis and her signature greeting "*Hola Chica!*", she never met a stranger, exhibited a vitality and smile that was contagious, and in addition to her dedication to the City, she impacted the community with her service including Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Great American Teach-In, Tampa Metro YMCA Early Headstart Parent Advocates, Hillsborough County's Community Action Board, West Central Region Neighborhood Advisory Board and Safe and Sound Hillsborough, she served on the Florida Neighborhoods Conference State Planning Committee, and she founded and led the Sulphur Springs Elementary School Gift Exchange providing over 800 items for the children, teachers and staff annually. Carla received numerous well-deserved honors for her contributions including named City of Tampa Black History Committee's *Outstanding City of Tampa Employee* twice, receiving the National Coalition of 100 Black Women's *Outstanding Citizen Award*, Dale Carnegie Training Institute's *Human Relations, Outstanding Performance and Leadership Awards*, nominated for the City of Tampa's *Josephine Stafford Award* twice, and she was a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Services; and

WHEREAS, well-known for her brilliance of mind and spirit, her genuinely generous, kind and compassionate nature, Carla will be remembered for her deep love of her family, friends, church and all people, and as a shining light who inspired and mentored so many, and the Tampa community is a better place because of the many lives she touched, and her strength of character and positive personality set an example for others, and she will be greatly missed by those who had the honor of knowing her.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the family of Carla D. Lewis, her parents Allison, Sr. and Betty, daughters Sharnice and Shayla, grandchildren Johnny and Cristian, brother Allison, Jr., other family members and her many friends, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the impact of her life on our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3rd day of August, 2018.



Mayor

