

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication make a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **Kitty Daniels**, legendary Jazz Pianist and Vocalist is one such person; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Daniels was born in Tampa, Florida's Historic Ybor City on 8th Avenue in a home filled with music and where her love of the piano began at age eight months sitting on her mother's lap, she started music lessons at age six, and she first performed publicly while a student at George S. Middleton High School and thereafter while attending Hunter College in New York, and during her life, she served as a teacher's aide, legal secretary and with Maas Brother's Department Store; and

WHEREAS, her long-standing musical career includes playing with several bands including with band leader Charlie Brantley and the Original Honey Dippers, later known as Doc's Skyliners, popular with college campuses and nightclubs, and she has connected with musical icons including Fats Domino, Cannonball Adderly, Dizzy Gillespie, James Brown and Etta James, and her talents caught the attention of B.B. King who used her rearrangement of his song *The Nearness of You* in his own performances; and

WHEREAS, a trailblazer, Ms. Daniels challenged discrimination practices prevalent in musician unions that prevented African American musicians from more lucrative engagements and better pay, and her efforts assisted in the racist policies to be rescinded locally, allowing her and others to play in many of Tampa's popular clubs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Daniels is well known for her unique style and song interpretations with classics such as *Stormy Weather* and *Moon River*, and locally, her extraordinary performances are popular in venues such as The Palladium and Donatello Italian Restaurant in Tampa where she has been entertaining its clientele for two decades, and Benedetto's Ristorante Italiano in Land O' Lakes; and

WHEREAS, for more than eighty years, music has been Ms. Daniels life, and her belief that she was *Born to Make a Difference* and her incredible talent has made her a musical legend, contributing to the unique culture, history and success of the Tampa Bay area, and she continues to provide joy and entertainment within our community through sharing her love of music, and a documentary celebrating her life, gifts and achievements will be released to make others aware of her life's story.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Monday, August 27, 2018 as

"KITTY DANIELS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating Ms. Kitty Daniels on her iconic musical career, wishing her continued success in the future, and in thanking her for her contributions to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 27th day of August, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor