

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, all children deserve strong families with mothers and fathers who are there to protect and love them, and every year hundreds of Hillsborough County, Florida families extend the gift of family to a child through adoption, providing a unique opportunity to improve children's lives and enrich the lives of adoptive parents, their families and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the average wait time for a child in foster care to be adopted is nearly three years, and more than 23,000 age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent loving home, and in Florida, state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations including the Florida Department of Children and Families, Guardian ad Litem and Eckerd Connects work together to raise awareness about foster care and adoptions in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, November is known as **Adoption Recognition Month** nationally to bring attention to the enrichment that adoption brings, and this year, **National Adoption Day** is on Thursday, November 16, 2018, held throughout the United States to further raise awareness through planned celebrations that offer children the opportunity for loving forever families, while encouraging others to consider the joys that come with adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, in Hillsborough County, Florida, the Thirteenth Judicial Court, Eckerd Connects Community Alternatives Hillsborough, Guardian ad Litem, and other community organizations will join together to celebrate November as National Adoption Month in an effort to bring attention to foster care and to those children still awaiting adoption, and the tremendous value of adoption in the Tampa Bay area; and

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, November 16, 2018, the George E. Edgecomb Courthouse will open its doors to host **Hillsborough National Adoption Day** featuring the theme **Adoption Rocks!**, and the event provides an opportunity for the Tampa community to witness the happiness of many adoption finalizations and celebrate this important and life-changing moment in the lives of the children and their new families; 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 Friday, November 16, 2018 as

## **“HILLSBOROUGH NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in honoring the many caring families and individuals who have made a difference in a child's life through adoption.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

City of  
**Tampa**  
Florida