

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, suicide, the act of intentionally causing one's own death and often a result of stress, despair, depression and health issues, is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and it is considered a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death with approximately 123 suicides every day, claiming approximately 45,000 lives each year, and often the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk from seeking life-saving help; and

WHEREAS, some warning signs that a person may be suicidal includes a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors through what they say or do, especially if it is related to a painful event, loss, or change; and

WHEREAS, the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (AFSP) was established in 1987, and is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, and advocacy, and its mission is to reduce the annual suicide rate, and save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide; and

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention created ***Out of the Darkness Community Walks*** with the goal of bringing awareness to suicide, its prevention, and to assist in raising needed funding for education, research, clinician training, improving intervention programs, and supporting survivors of suicide loss; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, December 8, 2018, AFSP Tampa Bay will join more than 380 cities across the United States in its ***9th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk*** at Al Lopez Park, and participants will lead the way in bringing suicide out of the darkness and into the light; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa wishes to join in this public awareness campaign in recognition of the toll suicide places on the families of our community, and let those in crisis know that help is available by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 8, 2018 as

“OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize that suicide prevention efforts are crucial in deterring the preventable loss of human life.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of November, 2018.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor