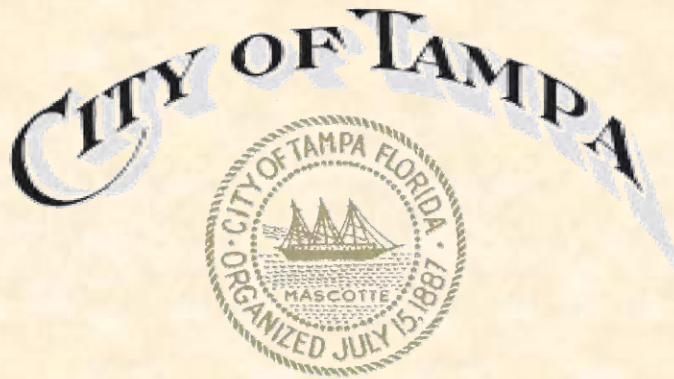


Proclamation



PAM IORIO, MAYOR

WHEREAS, the Italian Club of Tampa, Inc., historically known as L'Unione Italiana, was formed in 1894 in Ybor City as a non-profit organization to provide mutual aid to the Italian and Sicilian immigrants who had settled in Tampa, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Italian Club is to preserve the Italian heritage and culture in our community as well as the history of their beautiful building on Seventh Avenue in Ybor City; and

WHEREAS, nine years ago the Italian Club held their first Italian Festival called "Festa Italiana" to help raise funds for the future preservation of the Italian Club Building; and

WHEREAS, Festa Italiana Tampa has grown into a successful Tampa Bay community event welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate Italian food, wine, music, film and sport; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the many contributions these Italian immigrants had on our community, March 28, 2007 has been designated as **Italian American Heritage Day**; and

WHEREAS, to further recognize these contributions, the Italian Club and its Festa Italiana Committee will be kicking off its Tenth Annual Festa Italiana Tampa with a "Wines of Italy" event on March 29 at the Italian Club and the Sorrento Cheese Festa Italiana on March 31 and April 1, 2007 in Centennial Park in Ybor City; and

WHEREAS, this festival will feature the annual Bocce Ball Invitational Tournament, Italian Idol Competition, L'Unione Italian Cinema Italiano, over thirty Tampa Bay area restaurants and caterers presenting flavorful Italian specialties, cooking demonstrations, and the Festa's Kidz Zone, offering children's activities, amusement rides, face painting and much more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 28 through April 3, 2007 as

"FESTA ITALIANA TAMPA WEEK"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in saluting the administration, board and staff of the Italian Club of Tampa, Inc. and the Festa Italiana Committee for their efforts and accomplishments on behalf of our citizens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of March, 2007.





Mayor