

# Proclamation



*Pam Iorio, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the month of February is recognized nationwide as Black History Month and thousands of people, both black and white, will participate in cultural programs at schools, churches, government buildings, businesses and community organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the celebration of Black History Month was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, to expose all citizens to the rich heritage of Afro-Americans and their historic struggle which is a testament to the triumph of human spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of Black historical study is to affirm the humanity of a people once denied citizenship and remind ourselves that our history as a community and as a nation is woven together by our common humanity and our common quest for an even greater America; and

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month provides us all with the opportunity to transcend stereotypes and appreciate Americans' contributions to science, literature, architecture, industry, music, philosophy, religion, education, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Celebration will be held in Tampa on February 1, 2008 and will have as its theme "Reaching Back, Moving Forward, Holding Up the Light." Various activities are planned including the keynote address by Hillsborough Community College History Professor, Dr. Keith Berry, acknowledgement of the many contributions African-Americans have made to Tampa, and recognition of several city employees for their dedication to our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2008 as

## "BLACK HISTORY MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the various events and celebrations.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2008.



Mayor

