

# Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, known as the first black political party, the Partido Independiente de Color (Independent Party of Color) was founded in Havana, Cuba on August 7, 1908 and played an important role in the history of their country; and

**WHEREAS**, composed primarily of Afro-Cuban veterans of the Cuban War for Independence, their mission was to advocate for Afro-Cuban integration into mainstream society with equal participation in government; and

**WHEREAS**, its founding leaders, Evaristo Estenoz, Gregorio Surin, Pedro Ivonnet, Enrique Fournier, and Julian Valdez Sierra were veteran officers of the Cuban Liberation Army also known as the Mambi; and

**WHEREAS**, the Partido Independiente de Color fought for all Cubans regardless of race with a focus on such things as an end to racial discrimination, equal access to education and government jobs, an end to the ban on "non-white" immigration, compulsory free education for all Cubans from 8-14 years of age, the establishment of an eight-hour work day, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Cuban Race War of 1912 (May-June 1912) members and supporters of the Independent Party of Color were imprisoned, hunted down and sometimes executed, giving their lives in an effort to be part of the country they loved and fought for; and

**WHEREAS**, today, members of the Sociedad La Union Marti-Maceo are dedicated to educating our citizens about the Afro-Cuban culture and history and, together with others in the Tampa Bay community are celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Partido Independiente de Color and their role in our city's rich history and culture.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim August 7, 2008 as

## "PARTIDO INDEPENDIENTE DE COLOR DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in celebration of this event honoring their dedication to the need for equality and the continued influence their efforts have had on our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008



*Pam Iorio*

Mayor