

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1995 Major League Baseball owners officially and unanimously welcomed the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, along with the Arizona Diamondbacks, as the 13th and 14th expansion teams in Major League history; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Devil Rays became the 15th franchise in the American League on January 16, 1997 and played their first regular season game at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg on March 31, 1998 against the Detroit Tigers; and

WHEREAS, over the next several years the team's history included many memorable moments including the 3000th career hit on a home run by Tampa's own Wade Boggs (the only player to ever do so), with the franchise later retiring his number and proudly watching his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, November, 2007 marked a new beginning for this franchise with the selection of a new uniform, colors and name. Now officially known as the "Tampa Bay Rays," the team's phrase became "We Are One Team" which, according to the owners and management, refers to an improved and talented team allied with the fan base across the Tampa Bay area; and

WHEREAS, ten years after their inaugural game, 2008 has been an extraordinary season for the Tampa Bay Rays. With stats among the best in the majors and the best in franchise history, the team sent three players to the All-Star game, going into the break ½ game off the division lead and later rebounding and entering the final month of play 5½ games ahead; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2008, the Rays clinched their first-ever spot in the 2008 Major League Baseball playoffs, following Manager Joe Maddon's 9=8 slogan of: "if nine players play nine innings of hard baseball everyday, the team will become one of the eight teams qualifying for the playoffs;" and

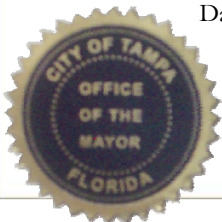
WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is excited to join Rays fans everywhere in celebrating this playoff position and in cheering them on to victory as the American League Eastern Division champions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 26, 2008 as

"TAMPA BAY RAYS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join as we "Catch the Rays on the Riverwalk", a public event co-sponsored by Tampa Electric, the St. Petersburg Times, and Colonial Bank, to cheer the team on as they edge even closer to what we hope will be a spot in the 2008 World Series.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 26th day of September 2008.



Pam Iorio

Mayor