

# Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, statistics indicate that every 40 seconds a child is reported missing or abducted, translating into over 2,000 children per day and over 800,000 per year; and

**WHEREAS**, a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2002 found that there were approximately 58,000 non-family abductions of children in one year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one in five girls and one in ten boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 600,000 registered sex offenders in the United States and the internet has been found to be a major tool being used by predators to target our children online; and

**WHEREAS**, safety should always be the number one concern when addressing internet technologies and the City of Tampa is committed to joining with local law enforcement agencies and interested organizations in finding ways for parents and community members to work together to protect our children from these online predators; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations like *Stop Internet Predators* seek to increase awareness and educate others on these technologies and the various safeguards available to protect our children and their privacy. As part of Cyber Security Awareness Month, this organization is working to encourage families to be proactive in preventing the sexual exploitation of our children through online applications.

**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 week of October 26 through November 1, 2008 as

## “STOP INTERNET PREDATORS AWARENESS WEEK”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to educate themselves on the various ways child predators are using the internet; how new technologies can sometimes be used to threaten families and children; to become informed of local efforts to address child sexual abuse and abduction; and to become involved with programs such as *Stop Internet Predators* in their efforts to protect our children and the rights of child victims.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.



Mayor

