

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and for 35 years, together with corporate partners, has honored those men and women who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions and that have helped to enrich the lives of other Hispanics in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will again celebrate its Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2014 Hispanic Woman of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for her commitment to others, and who has dedicated her life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through her community and civic service; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Colombia, this year's honoree is **Maria del Pilar Ortiz**, who is a graduate of Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Botoga, Colombia, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications and Television Broadcasting, and thereafter began her career as a reporter and worked for notable television stations in Colombia including *CBS Telenoticias*, *Caracol* and *24 Horas*. Arriving in the United States in 1998, she continued to dedicate herself to quality journalism, assisting the viewing and listening audience to become better informed, and worked for *Noticias Univision* in Tampa, Florida as News Director and Lead Anchor for eleven years, and has interviewed world leaders and celebrities including President Barack Obama, Senator John McCain, the late Hugo Chavez, and singer-songwriter Shakira; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing to make a positive impact on her audiences, Ms. Ortiz currently hosts the *Actitud Positiva* (Positive Attitude) segment on *CNN Television*, writes a weekly column in the popular *7 Dias Newspaper*, a monthly column in *Buen Vivir Magazine* and *La Guia Magazine*, and is an inspirational speaker and business owner of Pilar Ortiz Enterprises, and is the author of *On the Road to Success: Everybody Starts Somewhere* (2013); and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Ortiz has distinguished herself in the community as an advocate and generously gives of her time to help others, and she champions important causes including Alzheimer's disease and mentorship programs for Latino women especially through her membership in the Hispanic Professional Women's Association of Tampa Bay where she has served as its President. Among her many honors, Ms. Ortiz was recognized with the prestigious Premio Nacional de Periodismo Simón Bolívar Award, named the Hispanic Woman of the Year in Media by Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc., received the Woman in Business Award from the Professional Hispanic Women's Association, and the Rosita Perez Spirit Award from the Central Florida Chapter of the National Speakers Association. Ms. Ortiz's ability to serve as an inspirational role model and mentor to others certainly justifies naming her the **2014 Hispanic Woman of the Year**.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 4, 2014 as

**MARIA DEL PILAR ORTIZ,  
HISPANIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR DAY**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending and thanking her for all she contributes to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor