

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has named the month of March as “**Women’s History Month**” in special recognition of the many contributions women have made to our country’s history and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is proud to join in the nation’s celebration of “Women’s History Month” and this year’s theme, *Working to Form a More Perfect Union*, honors women who have shaped America’s history and its future through their public service and government leadership; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the tradition of recognizing excellence and service to the City of Tampa, the *Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award* has been established to be given annually to a current or former City of Tampa female employee who is a pioneer in her profession or excels in a field or level where women are underrepresented, and has demonstrated outstanding commitment to her position and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award for 2016 is presented to **Jeanette LaRussa Fenton** in recognition of her commitment to the City of Tampa and her many efforts on behalf of the citizens of our community; and

WHEREAS, a fourth generation Tampa, Florida native, Jeanette LaRussa Fenton began her forty-year public service career with Hillsborough County government serving in several capacities including as the Director of the Hillsborough County Commerce Department and thereafter she came to the City of Tampa as Manager of its Private Industry Council in 1995. Her knowledge and expertise in social services, human rights, consumer protection, growth management and community development led to several appointments including Director of Intergovernmental Relations in 2001, and as the Drew Park and West Tampa Development Manager in 2005, her current position. Well-known for her dedication to public service and community involvement, Jeanette has received numerous honors including Hillsborough County’s prestigious *Excellence in Government Award*, the Suncoast Girl Scouts’ *Woman of Distinction Award*, the Tampa/Hillsborough Human Rights Council’s *Human Rights Award*, she was named one of Hillsborough Community College’s *40 Outstanding Alumni*, selected as the first recipient of the *Italian-American Woman of Excellence in Government Award*, received several awards from the Florida Redevelopment Association and The Planning Commission for her excellence in project leadership, and she received a gubernatorial appointment to the Florida Commission on Human Relations by the late Governor Lawton Chiles, serving for four years. Her dedication and commitment to the City of Tampa and community make her truly deserving of this honor; and

WHEREAS, this honoree will be officially recognized on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the *Twentieth Annual City of Tampa Women’s History Month Celebration* held at the Tampa Convention Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2016 as

“WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in paying tribute to Jeanette LaRussa Fenton on her selection for this honor and to observe this month by paying special recognition in their own way to all women who have positively affected their lives.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23rd day of March, 2016.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor