

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, known as HIV/AIDS, was first detected in the United States almost forty years ago, and currently there are 1.1 million Americans living with HIV, with 23 percent of them women; and

**WHEREAS**, while scientific advances and expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment can help reduce transmission and prevent further suffering, it is still vital to educate the public on how they can protect themselves and others from this preventable disease; and

**WHEREAS**, HIV and AIDS remain widespread public health issues, and women continue to be vulnerable to infection, especially African American and Hispanic women, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health (OWH) has established ***National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day*** (NWGHAAD), annually held during National Women's History Month on March 10<sup>th</sup> to bring awareness so women and girls can empower and protect themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, preventative actions and best choices to avoid HIV infection include practicing safe sex, getting a free and confidential HIV test, and consulting medical professionals to learn ways of further protection and avoiding risks; and

**WHEREAS**, Positively U, Inc. is a non-profit, community based organization whose mission includes providing culturally appropriate and compassionate programming to HIV positive and "high risk" individuals with an emphasis on tailoring activities to meet each individual's specific needs; and

**WHEREAS**, to bring awareness to the Tampa Bay community regarding HIV/AIDS health concerns, Positively U, Inc. will host a ***Candle Lighting Ceremony*** on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at the Carrollwood Cultural Center in Tampa, Florida, and the event features survivor stories and discussion about the importance of prevention, testing, early detection, adherence to medications, and new campaigns that reflect healthy living.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, March 10, 2019 as

## **"NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY"**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of this disease, seek out testing and counseling to learn about their HIV status, and thank the Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health for its dedication.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor

