

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, frogs have survived in more or less their current form for about 250 million years, having recovered from countless ice ages, asteroid crashes, and other environmental disturbances, and the state of Florida has approximately 58 species of amphibians, including 31 species of frogs, making it one of the top states in the nation for amphibian diversity; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, frog populations have been declining worldwide at unprecedented rates, and nearly one-third of the of the world's amphibian species are threatened with extinction, and, since 1980, up to 200 species have completely disappeared; and

WHEREAS, amphibian populations are faced with many environmental problems including pollution, infectious diseases, habitat loss, invasive species, climate change and over-harvesting, and frogs require suitable habitats in both terrestrial and aquatic environments in order to thrive; and

WHEREAS, because frogs have permeable skin that can make them especially susceptible to environmental disturbances, they are considered accurate indicators of environmental stress, and the health of frogs is thought to be indicative of the health of the biosphere as a whole; and

WHEREAS, frogs are an integral part of the earth's ecosystem through tadpoles keeping our waterways clean by feeding on algae, adult frogs eating large quantities of insects, including those that transmit fatal illnesses to humans, and amphibians are part of the delicate food chain by being a food source for a diverse array of predators; and

WHEREAS, because of their uniqueness, frogs provide benefits to the health of humans through medical research and pharmaceutical use, and ten-percent of Nobel Prizes in Physiology and Medicine have resulted from investigations that used frogs, and when a frog species disappears, so does any promise it holds for improving human health; and

WHEREAS, the *Conserve it Forward, Inc.* organization will host its 3rd Annual "Save the Frogs Day" at Camp Bayou Learning Center on April 27, 2013, to promote awareness of amphibians and encourage further conservation efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2013 as

"SAVE THE FROGS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting efforts to protect our frog populations for the benefit of the ecosystem and, ultimately, mankind.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of April, 2013.



City of
Tampa
Florida

Bob Buckhorn

Mayor