

Proclamation



Pam Iorio, Mayor

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the vital role rail plays in our nation's transportation system, Amtrak will be celebrating its annual *National Train Day* on Saturday, May 8, 2010 which will be the culmination of six weeks of promotions, events, partnerships, and celebrations held throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, as our nation works to find more energy efficient ways to travel, rail ridership continues to rise. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, rail contributes less per passenger mile to greenhouse gas emissions than either cars or airplanes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida and the City of Tampa are envisioning new light rail, high speed rail, commuter rail and intercity rail systems to serve our future; and,

WHEREAS, known as one of the best ways to discover the beauty of our country, train travel is also a part of America's cultural heritage and can be found in our music, movies and literature; and

WHEREAS, while this recognition was initiated by Amtrak in an effort to build awareness of the comfort, ease and efficiency of train travel and the network of services available from coast to coast, other groups with an interest in train travel and history have become involved such as the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers, and Friends of Tampa Union Station; and

WHEREAS, through their municipal government, the residents of the City of Tampa are the proud owners of the historic 1912 Tampa Union Station, a City of Tampa designated Landmark which is also on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, ordinary citizens have united with the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to build a permanent endowment fund with private donations to help support Tampa Union Station's present and future as a cultural and transportation asset; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Union Station will be the site of festivities honoring this occasion with participation by Amtrak, the Suncoast Model Railroad Club, Tampa's Poet Laureate James Tokley, the Tampa Bay History Center, the Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library, and many others. As an Amtrak city, Tampa is honored to join in this recognition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pam Iorio, Mayor of Tampa, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim May 8, 2010 as

"NATIONAL TRAIN DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to recognize the vital role rail plays in the success of our city and to take part in activities planned to celebrate this industry and all those who have been involved through the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 8th day of May, 2010.



Pam Iorio

Mayor