

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, approximately 20.2 million American adults have a substance use disorder and nearly 8 million of these individuals suffer from co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, also known as dual disorders; and

WHEREAS, annually, the month of May is designated as **National Drug Court Month** to shed light on the impact and success rate of adult drug courts across the nation, and to bring awareness to the purpose of drug courts, and that countless lives are saved, families reunited, and communities made safer through effective drug court programs; and

WHEREAS, drug courts promote recovery through judicial supervision, mandatory substance abuse treatment, drug-testing, and graduated sanctions and incentives to break the cycle of drug addiction, and in times of serious budget cuts, drug courts offer a cost-effective way to increase the percentage of clients who achieve sustained recovery, thereby improving public safety and reducing costs associated with re-arrest and additional incarceration; and

WHEREAS, in Hillsborough County, Florida, the 13th Judicial Circuit has expanded its long history of providing innovative and successful drug court programs to improve public health and public safety since Chief Judge Dennis Alvarez implemented and developed the Pre-Trial Intervention Drug Court in 1992, followed by the Post-Adjudication Drug Court in 1994, which was the first in the state of Florida, and the 13th Judicial Circuit now includes the Drug Pre-trial Intervention Program Court and Post-Adjudication Adult "Recovery Court" programs; and

WHEREAS, the 13th Judicial Circuit has served thousands of clients over the years with almost 200 enrolling each year, and the programs, along with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and corrections personnel, researchers and educators, and others help individuals with drug problems, reduce recidivism, and allow people to become productive members of society and improve the quality of life for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as

"NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to thank the dedicated members of the 13th Judicial Circuit, the practitioners and participants for their commitment to programs that help reduce drug usage and crime in our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 30th day of April 2021.



Jane Castor
Mayor