

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1983, the **City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council** (MHAC) is a group of dedicated Hispanic individuals who are appointed by the Mayor to serve as a liaison between City government and the Hispanic community, and are a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials, and they accomplish their goals and objectives through programs, projects and activities; and

WHEREAS, an annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council event, the ***Latinos Unidos Luncheon*** showcases the growing presence and economic impact of Latinos in our city, state and nation, and celebrates enhancements Hispanics have made to our way of life in science, technology, government, business, education, the arts and in so many other important areas, and proceeds from the event have assisted Hispanic students in financial need over the years through scholarship endowments totaling over \$1,028,500; and

WHEREAS, the 22nd Annual Mayor's Latinos Unidos Luncheon on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, highlights special keynote speaker **Sylvia Acevedo**, former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Rocket Scientist and former CEO of Girl Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the late Matilda Martinez Garcia (1919-2016) was a charter member of the City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council who had served since its founding in 1983, and the organization established the ***Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award*** in honor of her more than three decades of dedication and service, and it is awarded at the luncheon to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and the people of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, this year, the *2021 Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award* is presented to **Damaris Soto**, a native of the Dominican Republic who immigrated to Tampa, Florida in 1986, and co-founder of the Coalition of Hispanic Artists, the Dominican Association, and the Hispanic Alliance of Tampa Bay, and she has served as president with the Dominican Association, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. (THHI). Ms. Soto has been a member of the Hispanic Professional Women's Association League for over twenty years and has served on the advisory board of the Tampa Latin Film Festival and HCC-Ybor Art Gallery. Ms. Soto leads by example and is well-known for her drive to help and mentor others to serve and lead in the community, and for her efforts and dedication for over three decades. Ms. Soto serves as an inspiration to others and her contributions to the Tampa Bay community are greatly valued.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 5, 2021 as

"LATINOS UNIDOS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, in honor of the Hispanic community's commitment to excellence, and ask that all citizens of Tampa support this occasion and congratulate Damaris Soto on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 5th day of May, 2021.


Jane Castor
Mayor

