

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, the word transgender is an umbrella term that describes individuals who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth, and they are only comfortable when in the gender role of their preferred gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, transgender discrimination can be a daily experience for many transgender people, especially youth, affecting many aspects of their lives, and discrimination can be described as direct, indirect, harassment, victimization, mistreatment, and rejection, and African American, Latina and Latinx transgender women, as well as other transgender people of color, disproportionately make up the majority of those murdered, attacked, and denied equal treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), in the year 2020, a total of 44 fatalities were tracked making it the most violent year on record, and unfortunately, year 2021 has already seen at least 43 transgender or gender non-conforming people fatally shot or killed, and many other incidences go unreported or are misreported; and

**WHEREAS**, **Transgender Day of Remembrance** (TDOR) was founded in the year 1999 by activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the late Rita Hester, an African American transgender woman who was brutally murdered in 1998, and to memorialize all those whose lives have been lost in acts of anti-transgender violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, known as PFLAG is the first and largest organization for LGBTQ+ people (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer), parents, families, and allies, and the organization has 200,000 members and supporters within over 400 chapters, including Tampa, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals who lost their lives this year and in prior years deserve to be remembered as their lives mattered, and they will forever be missed by their family, partners, friends, and community, and to honor those lives, **PFLAG Tampa's Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil** will be held on November 20, 2021 at the Joe Chillura Courthouse Square Park in Tampa, Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 20, 2021 as

## ***"TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in acknowledging and accepting all individuals including those within the transgender community, and in remembering and honoring those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2021.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor