

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, suicide, the act of intentionally causing one's own death and often a result of stress, despair, depression, and health issues, is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and it is considered a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, in the United States of America, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death, and the latest statistics available report there were 4,511 suicide deaths in 2020, and often the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk from seeking life-saving help; and

WHEREAS, some warning signs that a person may be suicidal includes a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors through what they say or do, especially if it is related to a painful event, loss, or change; and

WHEREAS, the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (AFSP) was established in 1987, and the organization is dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, and advocacy, and its mission is to reduce the annual suicide rate, save lives, and bring hope to those affected by suicide; and

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention created ***Out of the Darkness Community Walks*** with the goal of bringing awareness to suicide, its prevention, and to assist in raising needed funding for education, research, clinician training, improving intervention programs, and supporting survivors of suicide loss; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, December 4, 2021, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Tampa Bay will join approximately 380 communities across the United States in its ***12th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk*** at Al Lopez Park, and participants will lead the way in bringing suicide out of the darkness and into the light; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa wishes to join in this public awareness campaign in recognition of the toll suicide places on the families of our community and let those in crisis know that help is available by calling **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

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, December 4, 2021 as

“OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize that suicide prevention efforts are crucial in deterring the preventable loss of human life, and that when people work together, they can make a difference in the lives of others.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of December, 2021.



Jane Castor

Mayor