

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is committed to providing quality afterschool programs and opportunities for the youth in our community as they provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills, and they support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Afterschool Network and City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department have provided significant leadership throughout the pandemic to keep kids engaged in learning and meet the needs of families in our community, especially those who need extra support to catch up and accelerate their learning; and

WHEREAS, these important programs help build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships and advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, more than seven million school-age children in the United States are unsupervised after the school day ends, and the parents of 25 million children say they would take advantage of afterschool programs if they were available, but many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls and are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, *Lights on Afterschool*, an annual program, is a *Nationwide Rally for Afterschool* that brings together parents, students, educators, policy makers and others to promote and celebrate afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families, and in 2021 more than a million people participated in over 8,000 Lights on Afterschool events across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is dedicated to investing in the health and safety of all young people by promoting expanded learning opportunities that will help improve academic performance and behavior and prepare our youth to compete in the global economy, and we are pleased to join the more than 1 million Americans across the nation participating in the 22nd *Annual Lights on Afterschool* to spread the word about the importance of our community's afterschool programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2021 as

“LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida and encourage all residents to renew their commitment to our afterschool programs, helping to ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 25th day of October, 2021.



Jane Castor
Mayor