

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, behavioral health is an essential part of one's overall wellness, and prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance misuse, and recovery is important for an individual's well-being as well as for their families and neighborhoods, and it is a journey of healing and transformation, enabling people to live in a community of their choice while reaching their full potential and greatly improving their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, substance use such as cocaine and methamphetamines, and co-occurring disorders have far-reaching, negative effects, and the misuse of one drug often cascades to other forms including prescription opioids, and the overdose epidemic touches lives of people and their families regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, age, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, or educational attainment, and it is reported in 2021, thirty people died in the Tampa Bay community each week from fatal opioid overdoses, while thirty-four opioid overdoses were successfully reversed by first responders each day, and nationwide, 80,000 individuals died of overdose last year; and

WHEREAS, the impact on our nation, state, and city has been magnified due to COVID-19, resulting in more lives lost and impaired and with their families suffering, and recovery is vital to allow individuals to focus on their abilities to live, work, learn, and fully participate and contribute to our society thereby enriching the culture of our community; and

WHEREAS, with its official color of purple, **National Recovery Month** is observed each September, and it brings awareness to the public that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental health and/or substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives, and it celebrates the gains made by those in recovery, and the 2022 National Recovery theme **Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person. Every Family. Every Community** to highlight that people can and do recover every day, and to remind people in recovery and those who support them that while everyone's journey is different, no one is alone; and

WHEREAS, **Live Tampa Bay** is a coalition of local business, faith, and philanthropic leaders who have joined with traditional front-line professionals with a mission to reduce the number of opioid overdose deaths by 50 percent within the next five years, and the organization serves to complement and enhance the work already being done and connect those working in the field to combat the opioid crisis more quickly in our 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 September 2022 as

"NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to observe this month with increasing their awareness and understanding of substance use disorders and the programs and activities that encourage recovery, by thanking first responders, health care professionals, the judicial system, and organizations such as Live Tampa Bay who work to restore lives through recovery and show support by wearing purple during the month of September.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of August 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor