

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the late Joseph Miyares, a local attorney, generously donated property along the beautiful Hillsborough River in Tampa Florida, to the late Reverend Mother Joan Marie Wheeler, Order of St. Francis (OSF), and the deed was received in 1958 by the Sisters of St. Francis of Allegany, New York, a religious organization established in 1859; and

WHEREAS, on this land, the **Franciscan Center**, named to honor St. Francis of Assisi (1182 – October 4, 1226), was officially established by the late Provincial Superior Mother Lucian Walsh, OSF, in 1970 as a retreat center, ecumenical in nature so people of different denominations and faith traditions could enjoy the amenities of the facility and have an opportunity to gather in a serene setting; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit entity, the Franciscan Center's motto is *Find Your Center*, and it is staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, and dedicated laity who are assisted by loyal volunteers in carrying out the organization's ministry; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Franciscan Center, in the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, is to welcome everyone who seeks spiritual growth through a deeper relationship with God in a place of peace, community, healing, and joy, and the facility provides a comfortable location for group programs, private meetings, and retreats; and

WHEREAS, for over five decades, the Franciscan Center has provided a peaceful environment whereby individuals and groups may attend retreats, recovery and interfaith peace programs, prayer services, and other important programs including Operation Restore, a post trauma training for First Responders, and annual events including St. Francis Day Celebration and Blessing of the Animals held each October 4th; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2022, the Franciscan Center, celebrating its 52nd Anniversary, will host its *St. Francis Day Celebration and Blessing of the Animals*, and the event includes the unveiling of a 1970-2020 historical marker in acknowledgement of its 50th Anniversary that occurred two years ago, and the day provides an opportunity for attendees to reflect on the organization's history, service, accomplishments, and many contributions to the Tampa Bay region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 4, 2022 as

“FRANCISCAN CENTER DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to join me in thanking the Franciscan Center, the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, volunteers, and supporters for their dedication and commitment to their Mission of Peace and in congratulating them on their 52nd Anniversary.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of September 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor