

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the late John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United State once stated, *children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future*, and it is vital that their needs, wellbeing, safety, and quality of life be a priority; and

WHEREAS, the month of November has been designated as **Family Court Awareness Month** to bring attention to the importance the family court system plays in child safety and in acting in the best interest of children, and to the critical role fully trained family court professionals have in ensuring the children are well represented and sound decisions are made on their behalf; and

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month was established in 2020, with a mission to shine a spotlight on one of the most important branches of the United States judicial system – the family court system, and its need to do more to protect children from harm, and to recognize that an estimated 58,000 children each year are ordered into unsupervised contact with physically, sexually, emotionally, and psychologically abusive parents, and that many children are murdered during these visitations; and

WHEREAS, the Family Court Awareness Month Committee was founded to increase awareness on the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value, and that empirically-based education and training is critically needed for judges and all case professionals on domestic violence and child abuse including emotional, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse, as well as childhood trauma, coercive control, and post separation abuse so they are better able to make decisions that are truly in the best interest of vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, during the month of November, members of the Family Court Awareness Committee, supporters, advocates, community leaders and others throughout the nation will bring knowledge to the public regarding family court with billboards, candlelight vigils, peaceful demonstrations, virtual conferences, and informative panels featuring elected officials, experts, and survivors.

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

"FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to become educated about the importance of a family court system that prioritizes child safety and acts in the best interest of children.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 14th day of November 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor