

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, The City of Tampa, Florida is pleased to recognize the rich history of our community, and specifically Historic Ybor City, founded in 1886, by cigar manufacturers, and its significance as home to the cigar industry in America; and

WHEREAS, by the early 1900s, Tampa, Florida was known as the *Cigar Capital of the World* and the output by Tampa workers by 1929 exceeded 500,000,000 cigars, and the industry created a unique culture and heritage that continues to be a source of pride for the citizens of the Tampa community; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer of Tampa's cigar industry was the late Julius Caesar Newman who established **J.C. Newman Cigar Company** in 1895, and its humble beginnings started in a barn behind the family home in Cleveland, Ohio, thereafter, relocating to Tampa, Florida in 1954, to become an integral part of the cigar manufacturing community in Ybor City; and

WHEREAS, the J.C. Newman Cigar Company found its home in the E. Regensburg & Sons' Factory, built in 1910, and it was one of the last and largest cigar factories ever build in Tampa, and nicknamed El Reloj (The Clock) because of its signature tall brick clock tower, and it is the last Tampa cigar factory still operating and the building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Ybor City National Landmark District; and

WHEREAS, the J.C. Newman Cigar Company is well known for its excellence and quality, its humidors, cigar accessories, and signature premium cigar brands including the globally popular Diamond Crown, Brick House, Questa-Rey, Quorum, and more, and the J.C. Newman Cigar Company family is dedicated to the Tampa community through its Cigar Family Charitable Foundation whereby they generously support meaningful initiatives in education, healthcare, and community development; and

WHEREAS, in honor of its 125th Anniversary, the J.C. Newman Cigar Company on Friday, November 18, 2022, is hosting a ceremonial groundbreaking across the street from their El Reloj cigar factory for the creation of a beautiful ***Cigar Workers Park***, to honor the hundreds of thousands of people who have worked in Tampa cigar factories over the years and the contributions they made in our city's unique cultural diversity and to its success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 18, 2022, as

"J.C. NEWMAN CIGAR COMPANY DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating them on over 125 years of growth and prosperity, and in thanking them for their commitment to the Tampa community, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 18th day of November 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor