

# Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, is centered below the title. It features a circular design with a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887". The seal is flanked by decorative flourishes.

*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **Cynthia Smoot, WTVT-TV FOX 13 News Anchor**, and a Tampa, Florida community leader, is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, Cynthia grew up in Yorktown, Virginia, and her life-long passion for broadcast journalism began when she was a child, reading the newspaper to her parents, and in high school she honed her skills at an AM radio station, and thereafter, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she wrote for the student newspaper; and

**WHEREAS**, Cynthia began her stellar broadcasting career in radio as an award-winning morning news anchor and news director, and then as a television producer, reporter and anchor, and she joined FOX 8 WGHP TV in North Carolina as an evening news anchor, becoming a popular advocate for women, foster care, and children's issues including her weekly feature Wednesday's Child that helped foster children find forever homes, her involvement with the North Carolina Chapter of Operation Smile traveling to Panama and Ecuador reporting on life-changing surgeries for children, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, her work with Brenner's Children's Hospital, her signature "Gifts for Cynthia's Kids" and much more; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997, Cynthia made Tampa, Florida her home and joined WTVT-TV FOX 13, and she soon became one of the most endeared television personalities with her warm smile and genuine nature, beloved for not only reporting the news, but her passion to make a difference in the community and as a sincere voice for children and animals, bringing about awareness and inspiration to the viewing audience about their value and the injustice they very often face; and

**WHEREAS**, during Cynthia's tenure at WTVT-FOX 13, she shared compassionate stories about animals, wildlife, people and their pets, and many of her reporting included globally known news items such as "Winter the Dolphin" where Cynthia followed the amazing story of Winter's arrival to the aquarium to her prosthetic tail, her coverage of on the threat of the Burmese pythons in Everglades, and other reporting that enlightened the viewers, and she won a prestigious *Emmy Award* for "A Real Life Horse Whisperer" about Monty Roberts and his non-violent horse training techniques; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated to the Tampa Bay region, Cynthia generously supports and volunteers her time and talents to many civic and nonprofit organizations, and she is admired by the viewing audience and well-known for her compassion and kindness, and she has earned great respect by the citizens, television audience, and her peers in broadcasting, and the City of Tampa is honored to congratulate Cynthia on her retirement after more than thirty-five years in broadcasting, and appreciative of her many contributions; and

**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, November 29, 2022, as

## **"CYNTHIA SMOOT DAY"**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking her for her positive impact on our community and in wishing her continued success and happiness in her future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022.

  
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Mayor

