

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, suicide, the act of intentionally causing one's own death, often a result of stress, despair, depression, and health issues, is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and it is considered a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, nationally, suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death, the third leading cause of death among children and teens, and the latest statistics available report there were 45,000 suicide deaths in 2020, including over 3,100 Floridians, and suicide rates among those ages 45-54 account for 80 percent; and

WHEREAS, often the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk from seeking life-saving help, and some warning signs that a person may be suicidal include a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors through what they say or do, especially if it is related to a painful event, loss, or change; and

WHEREAS, the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (AFSP) was established in 1987, and dedicated to its mission of saving lives, bringing hope to those affected, and understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, advocacy, funding, supporting initiatives, promoting awareness, and developing and implementing strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs, including the 24-hour 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline; and

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention created its ***Out of the Darkness Community Walks*** with the goal of bringing awareness regarding suicide, its prevention, raise critical funding, and provide opportunities for individuals to gain the courage to open-up about their own connections to suicide and platforms to create a culture that is smarter about mental health; locally, on Saturday, December 3, 2022, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Tampa Bay will join communities across the nation in its ***Annual Out of the Darkness Walk*** at Al Lopez Park, and participants will lead the way in bringing suicide out of the darkness and into the light; and

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa joins in this public awareness campaign in recognition of the toll suicide places on the families of our community and let those in crisis know that help is available by calling the 988 number for the Suicide and Crisis lifeline or by texting TALK to 741741.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 3, 2022, as

“TAMPA OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize that suicide prevention efforts are crucial in deterring the preventable loss of human life, and that when people work together, they can make a difference.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 8th day of November 2022.



Jane Castor

Mayor