

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the month of February is recognized nationwide as **Black History Month**, and people of all ethnicities and nationalities will participate in cultural programs at schools, churches, government buildings, businesses, and community centers; and

WHEREAS, the celebration of Black History Month was initiated in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life, to expose all people to the rich heritage of African Diaspora and the historic African American struggle, which is a testament to the triumph of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Black historical study is to affirm the humanity of a people once denied citizenship and remind ourselves that our history as a community and as a nation is woven together by our common humanity and common quest for an even greater America; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month provides us all with the opportunity to transcend stereotypes and appreciate African Americans' contributions to science, literature, architecture, industry, music and the arts, philosophy, religion, education, and many others; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **City of Tampa Black History Committee, Inc. (COTBHC)** was established in 1988, and it is dedicated to promoting African American history and scholastic achievement by implementing programs that inform individuals of all ethnic backgrounds about the rich cultural and historic aspects of Black Americans and people of African descent throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the **35th Annual City of Tampa Black History Celebration** is held at the Tampa Convention Center on Monday, February 13, 2023, with the theme ***Thirty-Five Years of Service: Then and Now***, and the event features keynote speaker, Dr. Tonjua Williams, St. Petersburg College President, and the program highlights Tampa's black educators who work and have worked through the channels of academia, broken barriers for African Americans, and created opportunities for students, and the celebration will include the introduction of COTBHC's new president, Katrina House and the team of committee members dedicated to making positive change through their efforts to reach, teach, and lead, acknowledgement of the many contributions African Americans have made to our city, state, and nation, well-deserved recognition of several City of Tampa employees for their dedication to our community, and other exciting activities.

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 February 2023 as

“BLACK HISTORY MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the various events and celebrations that honor this annual tradition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of February 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor