

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, language is a complex form of communication consisting of sounds, words and grammar used by people, and language is conveyed either spoken, written, or with nonverbal gestures and facial expressions; and

WHEREAS, languages vary globally from country to country and sometimes from region to region or culture to culture, and one's native language that was exposed to them at birth is often referred to as their mother language, mother tongue, or native language; and

WHEREAS, with the advancements of globalization processes, some languages are fading or disappearing because newer forms of communication are being used, and the uniqueness, memories, traditions, and other cultural diversities are being lost, and it is estimated that nearly one-half of the world's approximately 7,000 languages spoken are endangered, and it is predicted that 1,500 known languages may no longer be spoken by the end of this century; and

WHEREAS, a worldwide observance held annually on February 21st, **International Mother Language Day** was established by the United Nations General Assembly to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world and to pay tribute to those individuals who have sacrificed to save their own language and heritage for future generations, and the date was chosen in honor of the anniversary of the day when the people of Bengali fought for recognition of the Bangla language and whereby lives were lost to protect their native tongue; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Tampa Bay Chapter of Distressed Children and Infant International (DCII), in partnership with several University of South Florida (USF) student organizations, is hosting its **4th Annual International Mother Language Day (Amor Ekushey February) Celebration** on Saturday, February 25, 2023, at the USF Riverfront Park and the event will bring awareness to the Tampa Bay community about the region's diverse cultures, and it will strive to inspire current and future generations to hold on to their unique heritage and language.

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, February 21, 2023, as

"INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon our citizens to join me in celebrating the diverse and rich languages within our own community and help to preserve them for the world's future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of February 2023.



Mayor

