

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer, also known as colon cancer or rectal cancer, starts in either the colon or rectum, affecting the digestive or gastrointestinal (GI) system and normally manifests as a growth called a polyp; and

WHEREAS, over 150,000 Americans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year, and it is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined, with African Americans having a higher percentage of those deaths, and the American Cancer Society states that over 52,500 deaths are projected in 2023, with a possibility of additional cases due to screening rates not returning to pre-COVID-19 levels; and

WHEREAS, while younger people can get colorectal cancer, it is more common in individuals over the age of 50, and increased risk include family history and lifestyle related factors such as diet, weight, lack of exercise, smoking, and alcohol usage; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer often has no symptoms, but it can be prevented through healthy lifestyles and regular colonoscopy screenings, and if detected early, it is highly treatable through surgery, systemic treatments, chemotherapy, and radiation, and it is estimated the survival rate for those treated is approximately 80 percent, and the goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) is to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to reach that percentage in every community throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, **Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** was established to bring awareness to the importance of early detection and the success it can bring, and since 2004, the **Blue Star** symbol and ribbon campaign represents the eternal memory of those whose lives have been lost to the disease and the shining hope for a future free of colorectal cancer, and the **Fight Colorectal Cancer** (Fight CRC) is a leading patient-empowerment and advocacy organization dedicated to curing colorectal cancer and it serves as relentless champions of hope for all affected by the disease through informed patient support, impactful policy change, and breakthrough research endeavors.

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 March 2023 as

“NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of colorectal cancer and to get regular screenings to ensure early detection and early treatments.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of February 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor