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Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1995, the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (PCFI) is comprised of generous and focused members who have diligently and selflessly given of their time and energies in support of the organization's vision and goals; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. is to preserve and present the Philippine heritage and culture as a legacy to future generations, and to contribute to the diversity of the city of Tampa, the region, and the state of Florida, and the organization provides cultural education on language, folk arts, travel guidance, assistance with organizing special events, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the PCFI built the Philippine Cultural Enrichment Complex in 2001, and it is a 9,900 square foot facility that houses artifacts on Philippine culture, a library, and convention, exhibit and event areas for the organization and members to utilize, and it features the well-known Bayanihan Arts and Events Center venue that hosts spectacular programs including festivals, concerts, and performances; and

WHEREAS, each year, the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. hosts a three-day **PhilFest** event at the Philippine Cultural Enrichment Complex, and over the years, it has become one of the most successful Philippine festivals in the country, attracting over 12,000 attendees from the Tampa region, the state of Florida and around the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. is presenting its 27th Annual PhilFest 2023 on March 31 - April 2, 2023, and the exciting programs include non-stop entertainment such as live bands and folk dancers, Philippine cuisine, street parades, processions, dance and singing competitions, cultural exhibits, and fashion shows, and the exciting festival provides an opportunity for the entire community to come together in celebration and cultural exchange.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 31 – April 2, 2023, as

"PHILFEST 2023 DAYS"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to participate in the PhilFest 2023 and extend appreciation to the organizers and generous sponsors for providing this festival that celebrates the rich history and culture of the Philippine community.

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Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 28th day of March, 2023.