

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, according to the Florida Medical Examiner's Office, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children, and accidental drowning is greatly preventable with water safety education and formal swimming lessons, essential for children and their caregivers to ensure the health and well-being of our young citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida, where communities have an abundance of beaches, lakes, swimming pools, and waterparks, has one of the highest rates of drowning among children in the nation, and in 2022, Tampa Bay had eight drownings, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and education focused on children, vital in preventing fatal and non-fatal drowning incidences, especially home swimming pools where most drownings occur among those ages one to four years old; and

WHEREAS, **National Water Safety Month** is an annual campaign coordinated by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals along with support from the National Recreation and Parks Association, the American Red Cross, and the World Waterpark Association to bring awareness to the public about safe, enjoyable aquatic activities, and it serves as an opportunity to highlight the importance of water safety education, encourage individuals to learn essential skills, and emphasize the responsibility we all share in protecting our children; and

WHEREAS, locally, the City of Tampa and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County recognize that it takes a collaborative effort among residents, neighbors, schools, non-profit and faith-based organizations, community groups, first responders, elected officials, governments, and businesses to be advocates for water safety education; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County are dedicated to enhancing the safety and security of children in our community and strive to empower children and their families with knowledge and skills to prevent water-related accidents; the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of aquatic programs for all ages including safety and swim lessons and lifeguard training, and the Children's Board Mobil Swim Program provides swimming lessons and water safety education by bringing lifeguards and swim instructors to apartment complexes and neighborhood association pools to teach lifesaving skills.

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 May 2023, as

"NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to actively participate in promoting water safety and raising awareness about the importance of protecting our children from water-related accidents.

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



Jane Castor

Mayor