

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, established in 1983, the **City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council** (MHAC) is a group of dedicated Hispanic individuals who are appointed by the Mayor to serve as a liaison between City government and the Hispanic community, and are a forum for those who need to voice their concerns to community leaders and City officials, and they accomplish their goals and objectives through programs, projects, and activities; and

WHEREAS, an annual City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council event, the ***Latinos Unidos Luncheon*** showcases the growing presence and economic impact of Latinos in our city, state, and nation, and celebrates enhancements Hispanics have made to our way of life in science, technology, government, business, education, the arts and in so many other important areas, and proceeds from the event have assisted Hispanic students in financial need over the years through scholarship endowments totaling \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the **24th Annual Mayor's Latinos Unidos Luncheon** on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, held at Armature Works highlights special keynote speaker **Efrain Rivera**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Paychex, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the late Matilda Martinez Garcia (1919-2016) was a charter member of the City of Tampa Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council who had served since its founding, and the organization established the ***Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award*** in honor of her over three decades of dedication and service, and it is awarded at the luncheon to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and the people of Tampa; and

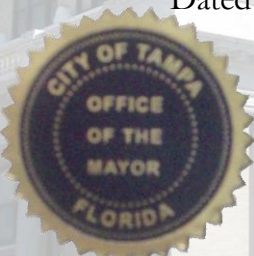
WHEREAS, this year, the **2023 Matilda Martinez Garcia Leadership Award** is presented to **Melisa Martinez**, Urban Development Project Coordinator with the City of Tampa's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for Tampa Downtown, Tampa Heights Riverfront, Central Park and Channel Districts in recognition of her years of dedicated service to the City and the community, for her commitment in building positive relationships between local government and the Hispanic community, and for her service in organizations including the Mayors Hispanic Advisory Council, the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Committee, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Hispanic Advisory Council, and National Association of Women in Construction; Melisa is well-known for her pioneering spirit, and her efforts to improve opportunities for Hispanic women and youth, and she serves as an inspiration to others who strive to excel and make an impactful difference within their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 3, 2023, as

"LATINOS UNIDOS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, in honor of the Hispanic community's commitment to excellence, and ask that all citizens of Tampa support this occasion and offer congratulations to Melisa Martinez on her well-deserved recognition.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3rd day of May 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor