

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, to raise awareness of the vital role rail plays in our nation's transportation system and its history, Friends of Tampa Union Station is celebrating its annual **Tampa Train Day** on Saturday, May 13, 2023, which will be the culmination of weeks of promotions and partnerships with local organizations; and

WHEREAS, Historic Tampa Union Station in Tampa, Florida opened in May of 1912, and has continued to serve as a monumental gateway for travelers for over 110 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Tampa community is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the re-opening of Tampa Union Station as well as the future restoration of the station, expected to be completed in 2024; and

WHEREAS, known as one of the best ways to discover the beauty of our country, train travel is also a part of America's cultural heritage and can be found in our music, movies, and literature, and our nation annually celebrates National Train Day to commemorate the driving of the Golden Spike, which marked the completion of the first Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, Utah on May 10, 1869, connecting the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads; and

WHEREAS, while National Train Day was initiated by Amtrak to build awareness of the comfort, ease, and efficiency of train travel and the network of services available from coast to coast, other groups with an interest in train travel and history have become involved, such as the Friends of Tampa Union Station, the National Association of Railroad Passengers, and the Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers; and

WHEREAS, through their municipal government, the residents of the city of Tampa are the proud owners of the historic 1912 Tampa Union Station, a City of Tampa designated Landmark, which is also on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, ordinary citizens have united with Friends of Tampa Union Station and the Community Foundation Tampa Bay to build a permanent endowment fund with private donations, helping to ensure Tampa Union Station's present and future as a cultural and transportation asset for current and future generations to use and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Union Station will be the site of festivities honoring railroads past, present, and future with participation by Amtrak, Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers, Largo Central Railway, City of Tampa Historic Preservation, Florida Railway Museum, the Suncoast American Flyer Enthusiasts, and others.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, Mayor of Tampa, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 13, 2023 as

"TAMPA TRAIN DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to recognize the vital role rail plays in the success of our city and to take part in activities planned to celebrate this industry and all those who have been involved through the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 13th day of May, 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor