

Proclamation

The seal of the City of Tampa, Florida, featuring a ship on the water, surrounded by the text "CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA" and "ORGANIZED JULY 15, 1887".

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a potentially severe or life-threatening allergic reaction that can be triggered by an allergy to a particular food, insect sting, medication, latex, or other causes; and

WHEREAS, food allergies are a life-changing, serious, and increasingly prevalent disease, and it is estimated that approximately 33 million Americans have food allergies, affecting one in every 13 children, and this potentially deadly disease has been increasing in numbers over the years, and the United States Centers for Disease Control has reported more than 3.3 million individuals require emergency room treatment for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to food each year; and

WHEREAS, a reaction to food can range from a mild response to anaphylaxis, and nine foods account for a vast majority of all food allergy reactions in the United States, even in minuscule trace amounts, – milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (e.g., walnuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, and pecans), sesame, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for anaphylaxis and food allergy, so strict avoidance of the food allergen is the best and primary preventative measure, and medications including antihistamines and adrenaline (epinephrine) are two effective defenses when a reaction does occur, and they can be lifesaving; and

WHEREAS, established in 2012, **Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)** is a leading national nonprofit organization whose mission includes improving the quality of life and health of those with food allergies through transformative research, education, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, **Food Allergy Awareness Week** was established to provide the opportunity to help educate the public, restaurants, schools, and others on the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of food allergies, and to bring the food-allergic community together to share their stories and raise awareness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 14-20, 2023, as

“FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join in support of this awareness initiative and all those in our community living with food allergies.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 9th day of May, 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor