

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, an initiative of the National Parents Organization, **Family Abduction Awareness Day** was established to bring awareness to the public about the dangers children face within our communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, family abduction occurs when a child is taken, wrongfully retained, or concealed by a parent or other family member, depriving another individual of their right to custody, visitation, or other contact; and

WHEREAS, family abduction characteristics include emotional and psychological trauma to a child and their parent and family members left behind, creating frustration and worry, and it can be considered a form of child abuse in that it disallows a young person access to both loving parents, siblings, and other family; and

WHEREAS, not just a civil matter, but a serious crime and a form of child abuse, law enforcement's responsibility is to assure that the child is with the person who has lawful custody and for verifying the validity of any court orders, and they do not ascertain the merits of a case or a child's preference, and the possible criminal criteria includes interference with custody and parental kidnapping; and

WHEREAS, the National Parents Organization mission includes improving the lives of children and strengthening society by protecting every child's right to the love and care of both parents after a separation or divorce.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 25, 2023, as

"FAMILY ABDUCTION AWARENESS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to advocate for the reunification of children who are missing with their families, and thank those individuals, organizations, and the justice system for their efforts in this worthy cause.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 18th day of May 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor