

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these notables is **Jamael (Rondé) Orondé Barber**, a legendary football icon, Tampa Bay Buccaneer Cornerback #20, and beloved member of the Tampa Bay community; and

WHEREAS, born on April 7, 1975, Rondé was born in Blacksburg, Virginia and attended Cave Spring High School in Roanoke, excelling in wrestling, football where he was selected *All-District* three times, and track where he won several national titles, and thereafter he was a star cornerback and kick returner with the University of Virginia (UVA), earning many honors including named Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) *Freshman of the Year* and selected *First Team All-ACC*, he contributed substantially to UVA winning the Independence Bowl in 1994 and the Peach Bowl in 1995, and where he graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree; and

WHEREAS, his talents, skills, determination, and successes led to Rondé being selected as the *Third Round Draft Pick* in 1997 by the National Football League's (NFL) Tampa Bay Buccaneers (the Bucs), where he became a legendary football cornerback starter, an integral part of the Bucs franchise, a big part of the defense earning a top-ten league designation and in elevating the team's respect in the football community, and by his second season he was an exciting fan favorite, appreciated for his brilliant performances blitzing, stopping the run, interceptions (47), and sacks (28); and

WHEREAS, during Rondé's 241 regular games within 16 seasons with the Bucs, he held the NFL's record for 215 consecutive starts, never failing to go above and beyond in ensuring the team's success, and his many career highlights include being named the NFL's all-time leading cornerback sack leader, he made 88 tackles resulting in loss yardage for the opponent, he scored 14 return touchdowns that includes a 92-yard interception, and more; Rondé was instrumental in leading the Bucs to many post-season games where he excelled, and he contributed greatly to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers winning the NFL XXXVII (37) Super Bowl over the Oakland Raiders, the franchise's first Vince Lombardi Trophy; and

WHEREAS, Rondé retired from the Bucs in 2014, and is the recipient of numerous awards during his career that includes being a *Super Bowl Champion*, named *First-Team All-Pro* three times, *Second-Team All-Pro* twice, received *Pro-Bowl* invitations five times, named *Defensive Player of the Week* nine times, was member of the NFL 2000 *All-Decade Team*, he received the prestigious *Ed Block Courage Award*, his name is included in the distinguished *Ring of Honor* at Raymond James Stadium for his outstanding contributions, and on August 5, 2023, Rondé was inducted into the **Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023**, the fifth legendary Buccaneer Player to receive this well-deserved honor; and

WHEREAS, Rondé has co-authored with his brother, Tiki, twelve children's books, and he is dedicated to raising funds for the betterment of the community including through Copperhead Charities where he serves in leadership roles, currently as the non-profit's Co-General Chair; and

WHEREAS, well-known as an extraordinary man of great integrity, dedication, and determination, Rondé is admired for his commitment to excellence, his passion for sports, and his love for his family, friends, his football teammates and mentors, and the Tampa Bay community, and it is fitting that he is honored for all he has achieved and contributed on and off the football field.

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, September 20, 2023, as

"RONDÉ BARBER DAY"

in the city of Tampa and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the legacy and success of Rondé Barber, thanking him for his positive impact in the Tampa Bay community, congratulating him on his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023, and in wishing him continued success in his future.




Mayor