

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the **Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM)** traces back to 1945, when it started as a week and focused only on people with physical disabilities, and in 1988 Congress declared the month of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month to educate and enlist support for the employment of workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, this signing recognizes the importance of all people and has helped society see that a disability does not diminish a person, and a diverse workforce creates opportunity for growth and celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities, and it showcases supportive employment policies and practices that benefit employers and employees; and

WHEREAS, to the approximately 60 million people living in the United States with a disability, about 21 percent are employed, and this is the highest rate since our nation began tracking this statistic in 2008, and through the many efforts of dedicated organizations who have been instrumental in reducing barriers, changing perceptions, job placement assistance, training and support services, and the standard of living for persons with disabilities and their families has been highly elevated; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa is committed to the equality of citizens and formed the ***Tampa Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities*** in 1986, the first of its kind in Florida, and it has become an effective advocacy organization comprised of persons with disabilities, service providers, and businesses, and their goals include increased available opportunities and quality of life for persons with disabilities in our community; and

WHEREAS, The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Blind Services within the Department of Education assists people with disabilities so they may become employed and they join with other organizations across the nation in its promise of hope, and in educating our citizens of the available resources that can help them participate more extensively in the workplace and community.

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

"DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to familiarize themselves with the Disabilities Act and learn how they can make changes to improve the quality of life for all residents of our city by recognizing, valuing, and serving all of the diverse members of our community, including persons with disabilities.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, on this 27th day September 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor