

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, breast cancer is the most common diagnosed cancer in women in the United States, and it currently ranks as the second leading cause of cancer death among women following skin cancer, and it is estimated one in eight women and one in 833 men in the nation will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetimes, and this year, approximately 297,000 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer with an additional 55,000 cases diagnosed as non-invasive; and

WHEREAS, metastatic breast cancer (MBC) occurs when breast cancer spreads (metastasized) beyond the breast to other parts of the body including the bones, lungs, liver, and brain, and it has an average life expectancy of 26 months, and regardless of early detection, about 30 percent of stage 0 to stage 3 breast cancer will return as stage 4, resulting in almost 43,700 deaths, 98 percent due to metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, *META*ivor Research and Support, Inc. is a national metastatic breast cancer research, support, and awareness organization whose mission includes transitioning metastatic breast cancer from a terminal diagnosis to a chronic, manageable disease with a decent quality of life, they are dedicated to the specific fight of women and men living with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, and their goal includes dramatically increasing the current percentage of United States breast cancer research dollars from less than 5 percent to 30 percent for the already metastasized patient; and

WHEREAS, while the pink ribbon is well-known for representing the fight against early-stage breast cancer, it is not inclusive of stage 4, so the Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Ribbon is tri-colored in teal, to portray healing and spirituality, green to represent the triumph of spring over winter and life over death, and pink overlay to signify that the cancer originates in the breast; and

WHEREAS, to bring metastatic breast cancer awareness to the nation and honor daily loss of lives to the disease, the #LightUpMBC campaign highlights illuminating landmarks in the metastatic colors of teal, green, and pink throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, locally, on October 13, 2023, the City of Tampa, Florida, will join the #LightUpMBC campaign to bring awareness about metastatic breast cancer, and will illuminate its iconic landmarks including Old City Hall, Curtis Hixon Park, the Tampa Riverwalk, City Bridges, and more.

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

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER AWARENESS DAY

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join the efforts of organizations such as METAvivor Research and Support, Inc. in their commitment to raise awareness and needed funding in the worthy fight against metastatic breast cancer.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day of October 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor