

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa recognizes that infant unsafe sleep is one of the leading causes of 100 percent preventable child death in the community, and safe sleep education for parents and caregivers safeguards the health and well-being of our most precious resource – children and families; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, infants are 40 times more likely to die in an adult bed than in their own crib, and approximately 3,400 infants die in the United States annually from sleep related deaths, and in our community, there have been 198 preventable deaths in the Tampa Bay area since 2013; and

WHEREAS, infant unsafe sleep can happen to any family members, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic group, and it is vital that all family members and caregivers be taught the **ABCs** of infant safe sleep by ensuring infants sleep - **A**lone, on their **B**acks, and in a **C**rib - because the ABCs of safe sleep minimize the risk of infant suffocating, especially if they have not yet developed neck muscle control; and

WHEREAS, the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County**, established in 1988 with a mission of investing in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in our community, strongly recommends using a firm mattress with tightly fitted sheets, and keeping cribs free of blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and stuffed animals; and

WHEREAS, it takes a concerted effort among neighbors, nonprofit organizations, community groups, first responders, faith-based organizations, elected officials, schools, and businesses to be advocates for safe sleep education; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa values the efforts of the Children's Board of Hillsborough County's **Prevent Needless Deaths Campaign** that provides ongoing education to prevent unsafe sleep deaths through community outreach, creating social awareness, and providing resources to teach parents and caregivers lifesaving skills; and

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

“SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to help support this awareness effort by increasing their knowledge of safe sleep for our youngest citizens and participate in activities that will advocate for programs that keep all children safe, providing an optimal environment for healthy families and communities, because even one preventable child death is too many.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 19th day of October 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor