

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus, which most commonly affects children under the age of five and can attack the nervous system, and in some instances, lead to paralysis; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for polio, a safe and effective vaccine is used to immunize over 2.5 billion children worldwide making this virus preventable with only two countries that remain endemic, and since 1988 cases have been reduced by 99.9 percent; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1905, Rotary International is one of the largest service organizations in the world with the motto, *Service Above Self*, and its mission is to Provide Service to Others, Promote Integrity, and Advance World Understanding, Goodwill and Peace Through Fellowship of Business, Professional, and Community Leaders, and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Rotary International launched its PolioPlus program and later helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gavi, and the Vaccine Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary International has contributed more than \$2.2 billion and countless volunteer hours in 122 countries protecting nearly 3 billion children against polio, and locally, the Rotary Club of Tampa is part of this worldwide effort to eradicate this disease and address other critical issues, and together these organizations touch the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients, families, friends, and medical professionals throughout the nation and around the world; and

WHEREAS, **World Polio Day** is held annually on the 24th of October in celebration of the birth of Jonas Salk, the American researcher who developed the first polio vaccine in 1955, and to promote awareness and education regarding Polio, with a goal of polio eradication.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 24, 2023, as

“WORLD POLIO DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of this disease and thank the efforts of health care professionals and organizations such as Rotary Club of Tampa for their dedication to the well-being of the citizens of our city, state, and nation.

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



Jane Castor

Mayor