

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, known as HIV/AIDS, was first detected in the United States over forty years ago, and while scientific advances and expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment has helped reduce transmission and prevent further suffering, it is still vital to educate the public and support those affected; and

WHEREAS, established in 2003 by Glen Weinzimer, The Southern Most HIV/AIDS Ride, more familiarly known as **The SMART Ride**, is an annual 165-mile bicycle ride from Miami, Florida to Key West, Florida, and the event has grown to become the second largest HIV/AIDS bicycle ride in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Smart Ride is a two-day ride through Dade and Monroe Counties, and the bicyclists will journey through the cities of Coral Gables, South Miami, Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Goulds, Cutler Bay, Homestead, Florida City, Key Largo, Tavernier, Islamorada, Layton, Marathon, Big Pine, with Key West as the destination; and

WHEREAS, The SMART Ride participants that includes over 500 bicyclists and 250 volunteers are dedicated citizens whose values include *Transparency, Stewardship, Empowerment, and Collaboration*, and they come together to raise funds that positively affect the lives of others, build lasting relationships, and they challenge themselves to strive for excellence in reaching their goals; and

WHEREAS, The SMART Ride organization is committed to creating, producing, and overseeing various community based events throughout the year, including The Smart Ride Weekend, and they give 100 percent of every dollar raised, to date over \$14.95 million, to directly support HIV/AIDS service organizations and their clients in Florida, including locally in the Tampa Bay area, the Empath Partners in Care (EPIC) organization that has provided supportive services to the HIV community for over three decades.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, November 17, 2023, as

“THE SMART RIDE 20th ANNIVERSARY DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS, join with The SMART Ride organization by participating and supporting their efforts and dedication, and congratulate them on this milestone anniversary and all they have accomplished over the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of November 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor