

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 the efforts to improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, observed annually on December 1st, **World AIDS Day** was established in 1988 to increase awareness, raise funds, fight prejudice, and improve education about HIV/AIDS, and it is an important way to celebrate the extraordinary advances made in the battle against the epidemic, remember those that have lost their lives to this devastating disease, and remind people everywhere that there is still so much more that needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, while many scientific advances including antiretroviral drugs and expanded access to HIV testing, diagnosis, and treatment can help reduce transmission and prevent further suffering, it is still vital to educate the public on how they can protect themselves and others regarding this preventable disease, reduce barriers, and support equitable access of HIV care and services; and

WHEREAS, CAN Community Health, a national organization established in 1991, and with an office in Tampa, Florida, strives to serve humanity as the leading resource for education, prevention and quality care, and its mission includes inspiring and contributing to the health and well-being of those affected by HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted diseases by providing the best care through outreach, integrated clinical practice, advocacy, education, and research; and

WHEREAS, CAN Community Health and Moffitt Cancer Center, currently tenth-ranked cancer center nationally and top-ranked hospital in Florida, have joined together in solidarity for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses, and together are sponsoring the **“Unite in Red” World AIDS Day Program** to commemorate those lost and to commit to ending the HIV epidemic in the Tampa Bay region.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 30, 2023, as

“UNITE IN RED WORLD AIDS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of HIV/AIDS, join with the CAN Community Health organization by participating and supporting their efforts and dedication to their mission.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 30th day of November 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor