

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, suicide, the act of intentionally causing one's own death, often a result of stress, despair, depression, and health issues, is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, and it is considered a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, nationally, suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death, the third leading cause of death among children and teens, and the latest statistics available report there were more than 49,400 suicide deaths in 2022, a 2.6 percent increase from the previous year, including over 3,400 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, often the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk from seeking life-saving help, and some warning signs that a person may be suicidal include a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors through what they say or do, especially if it is related to a painful event, loss, or change; and

WHEREAS, the **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** (AFSP) was established in 1987, and the organization is dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education, advocacy, funding, clinician training, improving intervention programs, supporting survivors of suicide loss, and bringing hope to those affected; and

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention created its ***Out of the Darkness Community Walks*** with the goal of bringing awareness regarding suicide, its prevention, and to raise critical funding, and locally, on Saturday, December 2, 2023, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Tampa Bay will join hundreds of communities across the nation in its ***14th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk*** at Al Lopez Park, and participants will lead the way in bringing suicide *out of the darkness and into the light*; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa joins in this public awareness campaign in recognition of the toll suicide places on the families within our community and let those in crisis know that help is available by calling the *988 number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline* or text *HOME* to 741741.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 2, 2023, as

"TAMPA OUT OF THE DARKNESS WALK DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize that suicide prevention efforts are crucial in deterring the preventable loss of human life, and that when people work together, they can make a difference.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of November 2023.



Jane Castor

Mayor