

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, provides basic freedoms and rights for all people, and Article Four of this Declaration states “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms;” and

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the principle that all people are born with an unalienable right to freedom, and liberty and human rights are fundamental; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is modern day slavery practiced through forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and commercial sexual exploitation, and the victims include citizens, immigrants, men, women and children; and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA), a federal statute passed into law in 2000 uses the approach of prevention, protection and prosecution to effectively address human trafficking proactively; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated there are millions of children around the world in forced labor with approximately half of them involved in its worst forms, and the individuals trafficked and enslaved are deprived of basic freedoms, access to adequate education, healthcare and necessities; and

WHEREAS, locally, many organizations are committed to advocating and raising awareness to assist vulnerable human trafficking victims, and one such organization, Redefining Refuge, dedicated to at-risk youth in the Tampa Bay area, are providing fundamental needs and resources to equip individuals in building strong foundations for their futures and continuing the fight to end human trafficking in our community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, annually, the month of January has been named *Human Trafficking Awareness Month*, with January 11th as *National Human Trafficking Awareness Day*, and the color blue is used to promote awareness of the need for people to work together to end human trafficking through education, prevention, and prosecution, and

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, January 11, 2024 as

“NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join together nationally and as a global community to provide a safe haven by protecting the victims and prosecuting the traffickers, and raise awareness about human trafficking, not only during the month of January, but year-long.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 10th day of January, 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor