

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer, also known as colon or rectal cancer, starts in either the colon or rectum, affecting the digestive or gastrointestinal (GI) system and normally manifests as a growth called a polyp, and it is the second leading cause of cancer death for men and women combined, and it is predicted to be the number one cancer killer for those ages 20-49 by 2030; and

WHEREAS, over 150,000 Americans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year with an estimated 52,500 deaths occurring, and African Americans are 20 percent more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 40 percent will die from the disease than other ethnic groups, and some of these disparities have been attributed to differences in access to care, cancer screening, and other socioeconomic factors; and

WHEREAS, while younger people can get colorectal cancer, it is more common in individuals over the age of 50, and increased risk include family history and lifestyle related factors such as diet, weight, lack of exercise, smoking, alcohol usage, and lower intakes of certain vitamins; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer often has no symptoms, but it can be prevented through healthy lifestyles and regular colonoscopy screenings, and if detected early, it is highly treatable through surgery, systemic treatments, chemotherapy, and radiation, and it is estimated the survival rate for those treated is approximately 80 percent, and the goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) is to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to reach that percentage in every community throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, **Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** was established to bring awareness to the importance of early detection and the success it can bring, and since 2004, the [Blue Star Universal Symbol](#) campaign promotes unity in the colorectal cancer field and is representative of the eternal memory of those whose lives have been lost to the disease and the shining hope for a future free of colorectal cancer through education and research.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2024 as

“NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of colorectal cancer and to get regular screenings to ensure early detection and early treatments.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 16th day of February 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor