

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the month of March has been recognized as **Irish American Heritage Month** in the United States since 1991, and it celebrates the many great contributions Irish immigrants and their descendants have made to our country and its history; and

WHEREAS, March was named the Irish American Heritage Month to coincide with Saint Patrick's Day, held annually on March 17th in honor of the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick; and

WHEREAS, by the year 1776, nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had immigrated to the American colonies, and they played a crucial role in America's War for Independence, and helped to fashion a system of government for the young nation; and

WHEREAS, from early explorers to today, Irish Americans have played significant roles in America's history, and continue to contribute substantially to the diverse culture of our nation, the state of Florida, and the city of Tampa, and twenty-three of the United States of America Presidents proclaimed Irish American heritage including current President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., with some of his maternal ancestors hailing from the Ireland counties of Louth and Mayo; and

WHEREAS, Tampa is unique in its rich history and diversity, and the Irish American citizens of the Tampa Bay community have greatly influenced the development of our city, and they provide leadership and service in all aspects of community life including business, politics, civic participation, education, science, health, community service, philanthropy, and more, and

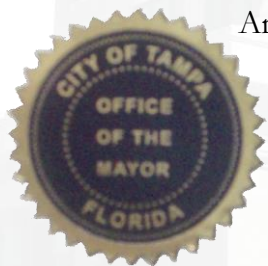
WHEREAS, on Saturday, March 16, 2024, the annual **Tampa Rough Riders St. Patrick's Parade** will be held in the Downtown district of Tampa, featuring elaborate floats, costumes, beads, and fun for everyone, and on Saturday, March 16, 2024, the City of Tampa and the Tampa's Downtown Partnership will host **Tampa's River O' Green Festival** at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park in downtown Tampa whereby the Hillsborough River will safely and temporarily be transformed into a bright shade of emerald green in honor of Saint Patrick's Day, and the event will include live entertainment, cultural music and dancing, family-friendly activities, food and beverage trucks, and more.

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

"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in participating in the various events and celebrations that honor the Irish American culture and take the opportunity to thank Irish American citizens for the contributions they make to our community and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of March 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor