

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, *Gay Pride*, also known as *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride* is defined as the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, to promote their self-affirmation, dignity, and equality rights, increase their visibility as a social group, build community, and celebrate sexual diversity and gender variance, and *Pride* is an acronym for Personal Rights in Defense and Education; and

WHEREAS, cities around the globe celebrate LGBTQ Pride with rallies, marches, parades, commemorations, community days, concerts, and large festivals, and during this time diversity and the positive impact LGBTQ individuals have on the world is celebrated, and we are reminded that every generation has brought us closer to true equality, and recent achievements confirm that people never stop striving towards absolute equality for everyone; and

WHEREAS, individually and collectively, members of Tampa's LGBTQ community contribute greatly to neighborhood revitalization, economic vitality, arts and culture, and the social fabric of our city, county, state, and nation, and as one of the first cities in the region to have a domestic partnership registry, the City of Tampa prides itself on its inclusiveness and it protects its residents from discrimination and harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, sex, religion, disability, age, marital status, place of birth, families with children, sexual orientation or national origin, and is committed to continued social progress and the cause of human rights, celebrating the great diversity of our community; and

WHEREAS, *Tampa Pride, Inc.* is a non-profit corporation, and its membership is a representation of all aspects of the Tampa Bay area and includes professionals, business owners, community leaders, retirees, and individuals who promote and provide a safe, tolerant, and welcoming focal point for LGBTQ individuals from around the region, state, and nation, and are they are committed to demonstrating diversity and inclusivity as a community through providing scholarships for college, trade schools and skilled labor education, the holiday *TOYS FOR KIDS* campaign to benefit single parent families, celebrations and an annual festival; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Pride, Inc. will celebrate diversity, social progress, and the cause of human rights and equality with its milestone **10th Annual Tampa Pride Festival, Diversity Parade Celebration, Pride at Night Concert Event**, in Historic Ybor City on Saturday, March 23, 2024, and the new **Tampa 5K Rainbow Run**, at Al Lopez Park on Saturday, March 9, 2024, and with its theme of *Celebrate You*, the organizers are dedicated to monitoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to ensure Tampa Pride guests and participants are celebrating safely.

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, March 23, 2024, as

“TAMPA PRIDE DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join in ending prejudice everywhere it may exist, respect the rights of all people, remember those who have suffered through unjust acts of violence, and come together to celebrate the diversity and richness of our city by supporting and participating in the Tampa Pride events.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 15th day of February 2024.



Jane Castor
Mayor