

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow and reach their full potential in a safe and secure home and neighborhood, and it is incumbent on each resident in our city to value, support, and advocate for children and their well-being, and the future prosperity of the Tampa, Florida region depends on maintaining the healthy development of children currently living, growing, and learning within our diverse community, and research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help in times of trouble are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, in early childhood, traumatic events of abuse, domestic violence, divorce, incarcerated parents or caregivers, and neglect can have long term negative effects on the health and well-being of children, and it is vital that communities work together to increase awareness about child abuse and how to stop it because prevention remains the best defense, and it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, the courts, government agencies, the medical community, and all of us to succeed in these efforts, and state law requires that any person that is aware or suspects child abuse or neglect by a parent or legal guardian report it to the Florida Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** was established in 1983 as an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse, and throughout the nation, community leaders and organizations strive to bring about positive change by supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, the *Children's Board of Hillsborough County*, established in 1988, with its *Keeping Kids Safe Partnership* and quality programs strive to support the success of all children and families in the community, and the organization is committed to child abuse prevention, and advocates for educational, emotional, physical, and social prosperity for children to ensure they are healthy, safe, developmentally on track, and ready to learn and succeed, and during the month of April, in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Florida's *Pinnwheels for Prevention*, will host activities to bring awareness on the importance of keeping children safe; and

WHEREAS, *Tampa General Hospital (TGH)* is dedicated to the optimum health of all children, and on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, will host its *TGH Muma Children's Hospital Child Abuse Prevention Symposium* designed to meet the educational needs of child advocacy members, physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals who care for pediatric child abuse patients and it is focused on child abuse prevention, encouraging healthy child development, positive parenting practices, 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 April 2024, as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to make children a top priority and to ensure that every child grows and reaches their full potential in safe and secure environments.

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



Jane Castor

Mayor