

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, April is recognized annually as **National Minority Health Month (NMHM)** to raise awareness about continuing health disparities that affect people of all racial and ethnic minority groups, and it is a time to encourage action through health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

**WHEREAS**, during National Minority Health Month, the week of April 11-17 is designated annually as **Black Maternal Health Week**, which President Joseph R. Biden officially proclaimed on April 10, 2023, and where he included in his Fiscal Year 2024 Budget \$471 million to support the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity rates, and the week is celebrated by people of all ethnicities and nationalities, including the vast diverse citizens of Tampa, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, created by the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) in 2018, Black Maternal Health Week was established to raise awareness and highlight the maternal and infant health disparities between the Black Community versus other communities and improve the birth outcomes among African American and Black mothers and babies, and it is a crucial component to advancing Black maternal health; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to acknowledge and improve the 2020 statistics on Black maternal health which concludes that Black women were three to four times more likely to pass away due to pregnancy-related complications than white women, twice as likely to experience a severe obstetric event, and between two to three times more likely to have an infant die before their first birthday, and it is reported that nearly 70 percent of these deaths were deemed preventable, and it is imperative to ensure Black birthing mothers have equitable access to services, education, and support regarding pregnancy, childbearing, and infant care; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance is a Black women-led cross-sectoral alliance that encourages Black mothers, physicians and care providers to advocate, drive research, build power, and shift the culture for Black maternal health, rights and justice, and its vision includes *a world where Black mamas have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy*; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Tampa Bay Black Maternal Health Week** initiative strives to honor the strength and resilience of Black mothers and birthing persons by shedding light on their unique social circumstances and healthcare challenges, and the **Inaugural MOMMA Fest** is being held during Black Maternal Health Week at the University Area Community Center on Friday, April 12, 2024, and the family friendly event will unite the community in a day of joy, education, and empowerment for all in attendance, and it will serve as a catalyst in mobilizing the Tampa Bay community towards brighter futures for Black mothers and babies.

**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 week of April 11-17, 2024, as

## “BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to participate in the Inaugural MOMMA Fest and in becoming aware of the disparities in maternal health, and in supporting initiatives that improve the health of minority and ethnic mothers and their precious babies.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor