

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, drowning is one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths among children, and accidental drowning is greatly preventable with water safety education and formal swimming lessons, essential for children and their caregivers to ensure the health and well-being of our young citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state of Florida, where many communities have an abundance of beaches, lakes, swimming pools, and waterparks, has one of the highest rates of drowning among children in the nation with 97 incidents cited in 2023, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and education focused on children, vital in preventing fatal and non-fatal drowning incidences; and

WHEREAS, **National Water Safety Month** is an annual campaign that prepares us for the recreational opportunities during the summer months, it brings awareness about safe and enjoyable aquatic activities, serves as an opportunity to highlight the importance of water safety education, encourages individuals to learn essential skills, and it emphasizes the responsibility we all share in remaining vigilant in protecting our children; and

WHEREAS, locally, the City of Tampa and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County recognize that it takes a collaborative effort among residents, neighbors, schools, non-profit and faith-based organizations, community groups, first responders, elected officials, governments, and businesses to be advocates for water safety education, and are dedicated to enhancing the safety and security of children in our community, and strive to empower children and their families with knowledge and skills to prevent water-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of aquatic programs for all ages including safety and swim lessons and lifeguard training, and the Children's Board's initiatives including the Mobile Swim Team, Water Warriors, Prevent Needless Deaths Campaign and Safe Kids Greater Tampa provide swimming lessons, water safety education, and more to our community.

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 May 2024, as

"NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to actively participate in promoting water safety and raising awareness about the importance of protecting our precious children from water-related accidents.

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



Jane Castor
Mayor