

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, **Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS)**, also known as verbal dyspraxia or developmental apraxia, is a neurological speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak, whereby the child's brain does not allow messages to reach their mouth, and it can be a significant struggle for them to learn to say sounds and words; and

**WHEREAS**, among the most severe speech deficits in children, early diagnosis and intervention of Childhood Apraxia of Speech is crucial to reduce the risks of negatively impacting reading, writing, spelling, and other important skills that contribute to their quality of life, preparation for adulthood, socialization, and happiness; and

**WHEREAS**, affecting more boys than girls, children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech will learn to communicate with their very own voices only if they receive early intervention and appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA)**, whose motto is "*Every Child Deserves a Voice*," established May 14<sup>th</sup> as **Apraxia Awareness Day** to emphasize to industry professionals the need to advocate and correctly identify and treat children with Apraxia, and to unite the community and those with the disorder and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, **Apraxia Kids** is a leading nonprofit organization with a mission of supporting parents and professionals in understanding and raising awareness, and envisions a world where every child with CAS reaches their highest level of communication potential through accurate diagnosis and appropriate timely treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, to bring awareness and needed funding to support programs and services, the **2024 Apraxia Kids Walk** is being held across the United States and Canada throughout the year, including locally on Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Water Works Park in Tampa, Florida.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 14, 2024, as

## ***"APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in doing their part in supporting the efforts of nonprofit organizations, physicians, speech therapists, and those affected with Childhood Apraxia of Speech in advocacy, raising awareness, and research about this serious speech disorder.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor