

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Rogers Park Golf Course, established in 1952, is a beautiful 18-hole golf facility with rich historical significance, and it includes a driving range and 3-hole short game course, and it is home to the Tampa City Men's Open Championship and Tampa City Men's Amateur Medal Championship; and

WHEREAS, Rogers Park Golf Course, originally a community park known as Rogers Park, was named in honor of a local community leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, the late Garfield Devoe Rogers, Sr. (1885 - 1951), who generously donated the land to the City of Tampa to establish the city's first African American park, and the dedication ceremony was held on June 17, 1951, a few month after his death; and

WHEREAS, during the segregation era, Rogers Park was the only place for the Tampa's African American community could come to enjoy the picnic and playground areas, the baseball diamond, and utilize the other amenities, and it was a popular place for people after church services on Sunday afternoons; and

WHEREAS, former Tampa Mayor Curtis Hixon (1891 – 1956) gave permission for a group of caddies from the Palma Ceia Country Club to build a 9-hole golf course which was completed in 1952, whereby the Rogers Park Golf Course was created, and in 1976, the City of Tampa gave management rights to the Tampa Sports Authority who invested \$400,000 toward renovation projects, and in 2000, it further renovated the site with \$4 million in improvements including rebuilding the greens to meet United States Golf Association (USGA) specifications; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, October 4, 2024, held on National Golf Lover's Day, the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council is hosting the unveiling and dedication of the **Rogers Park Golf Course Historical Marker**, and the celebration honors the rich history of the facility, its evolution to a first-class and popular site, and to celebrate its many accomplishments over the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 4, 2024, as

“ROGERS PARK GOLF COURSE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to recognize the historical value of the Rogers Park Golf Course, appreciate its rich heritage and value to our community, and to visit and enjoy it whenever possible.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of October 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor