

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the city of Tampa, Florida, is proud of its rich history and the cultural diversity that is unique to our community, and much of it can be attributed to the pioneers and immigrants who contributed to its successful development, growth, prosperity, and strength; and

**WHEREAS**, many immigrants and their descendants enrich our lives by sharing their unique heritage, and cultural organizations bring their uniqueness to others through festivals, awareness events, and philanthropic endeavors, and they contribute substantially within all aspects of community life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dominican Association of Tampa (DAOT) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1995, and it is dedicated to its mission of building a strong image of the Dominican people by providing and assisting in community services, by promoting its culture, and in awarding educational scholarships to graduating high school seniors; and

**WHEREAS**, *merengue* is a style of music and dance that has existed since the early years of the Dominican Republic, and it is considered part of the national identity of the Dominican community, playing an important role in various aspects of people's lives, including in their education, social gatherings, and celebrations; and

**WHEREAS**, **National Merengue Day**, established in 2005, is celebrated on November 26<sup>th</sup> each year to recognize the traditional practices of merengue and honor its place in the Dominican culture, and the Dominican Association of Tampa is hosting "Día Nacional Del Merengue" – National Merengue Day on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at The Oaks of St. Marks in Tampa, featuring the theme *Viva El Merengue*, and the event provides an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage of the Dominican Republic and share its traditions with the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Dominican Americans are part of the success story of our nation and the Tampa Bay region, and they are an established and vital component of the neighborhoods in which they live, play, and work, and they serve in leadership roles, professions, enterprises, as entrepreneurs, public servants 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 November 26, 2024, as

## ***"NATIONAL MERENGUE DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Dominican Association of Tampa community for the many contributions they have made and continue to make to our city.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor