

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the term “victim” is more than a label - it has legal standing and protections that go along with it, and its definition includes individuals who have suffered harm from another person or an adverse act or circumstance such as physical or mental injury, or someone who has been tricked or swindled, and victims have the right to due process, to be treated with fairness and respect, freedom from intimidation, harassment, and abuse, and to be protected from the accused; and

**WHEREAS**, created in 1988, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is within the Office of Justice Programs at the United States Department of Justice, and the office is charged by Congress with the administration of the Crime Victims Fund to support a broad array of programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime and the continuation of support as they rebuild their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, at the federal level and in the state of Florida, the Crime Victims’ Rights Act guarantees victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights, including providing an impact statement that ensures that victims’ voices are considered in court during sentencing, and when applicable, restitution processes; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) was established in 1981, and is held each April, and it challenges the nation to confront and remove barriers to achieving justice for all victims of crime, it celebrates the accomplishments of the victims’ rights movement and how far it has come, and it brings attention to the need to continue to implement innovative programs and improve existing ones to further assist those injured and affected; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 National Crime Victims’ Week theme is *How Would You Help*, and it asks all of us – friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, community leaders, victim service providers, criminal justice practitioners, and the health professions how we can help victims and be a voice for their rights.

**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 21-27, 2024, as

## **“NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to advocate for the rights of all victims of crime, and become aware of the many options, services, and programs available to them so you can be someone they can turn to for help, and to take time to thank community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals for their dedication to all victims of crime and for being committed to improving programs that support them.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
Mayor