

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, in 1987, the United States Congress named the month of March as “**Women’s History Month**” in special recognition of the many contributions women have made to our country’s history and heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa is proud to join in the celebration of Women’s History Month, and the 2025 theme ***Moving Forward Together: Women Educating & Inspiring Generations*** celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership and through their efforts, have served as an inspiration for all generations – both past and present; and

**WHEREAS**, in keeping with the tradition of recognizing excellence and service to the City of Tampa, the **Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award** was established to be given annually to a current or former City of Tampa female employee who is a pioneer in her profession and/or excels in a field or level where women are underrepresented, and who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to her position and community; this year, the ***2025 Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award*** is presented to **Shirley Foxx-Knowles, City Clerk for the City of Tampa**, in recognition of her long-standing commitment to the City and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Shirley brought a wealth of expertise and experience when she joined the City of Tampa from earning her degree in Accounting with Honors from Florida A&M University, her previous successful careers with GTE of Florida where she excelled, receiving numerous promotions with a capstone as a Corporate Tax Accountant, and serving as Development Director for the Tampa-Hillsborough Urban League. Appointed by Mayor Pam Iorio in 2003 as Tampa’s 28<sup>th</sup> City Clerk, Shirley is a Certified Financial Development Professional and a highly dedicated public servant, well-known for her commitment, strong work ethic, concern for accuracy in all aspects of her office’s many responsibilities, and for her passion for her important role. As City Clerk, Shirley ensures her office is professional, efficient, impartial, professional, neutral and providing equal service to all, and that official council minutes, vital and historical records and documents are handled with care. Shirley is admired by all who know her for her compassionate nature, kindness, warm smile, and her commitment as a public servant. She goes beyond her role as City Clerk through involvement in many worthy organizations including the City of Tampa Black History Committee (COTBHC), Tampa Organization of Black Affairs (TOBA), the City of Tampa Code Enforcement Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the National Forum for Black Administrators, the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council, and others. Shirley has dedicated herself to her family, career and improving the lives of others in many ways and is highly deserving of this prestigious Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award that honors her contributions.

**WHEREAS**, Shirley’s legacy is officially recognized on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, during the **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award Ceremony** held at the Tampa Bay History Center.

**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 March 2025 as

## **“WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to pay tribute to Shirley on her selection for this honor, and to observe this month by giving special recognition in their own way to all women who have positively affected their lives.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor