

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, all children have the right to grow and reach their full potential in a safe and secure home and neighborhood, and it is incumbent on each resident in our city to value, support, and advocate for children and their well-being, and the future prosperity of the Tampa, Florida region depends on maintaining the healthy development of children currently living, growing, and learning within our diverse community; and

WHEREAS, in early childhood, traumatic events of abuse, domestic violence, divorce, neglect, and incarcerated parents or caregivers can have long term negative effects on the well-being of children, and it is vital that communities work together to become aware about child abuse and how to stop it as prevention is the best defense, and research shows that parents and caregivers who have social networks and know how to seek help are more resilient and better able to provide safe environments and nurturing experiences for their children; and

WHEREAS, it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, community groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, law enforcement, the courts, government agencies, the medical community, and all of us to succeed in these efforts, and state law requires that any person that is aware or suspects child abuse or neglect by a parent or legal guardian report it to the Florida Department of Children and Families; and

WHEREAS, **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** was established in 1983 as an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse, and throughout the nation, community leaders and organizations strive to bring about positive change by supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, the **Children's Board of Hillsborough County**, established in 1988, with its *Keeping Kids Safe Partnership*, in collaboration with Prevent Child Abuse Florida's *Pinnwheels for Prevention*, the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, and Safe Kids Greater Tampa Coalition strive to support the success of all children and families in the community, and the organization and the City of Tampa are committed to child abuse prevention, and advocate for educational, emotional, physical, and social prosperity for children to ensure they are healthy, safe, developmentally on track, and ready to learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County is hosting its **Annual Child Abuse Prevention Month Awareness** event on April 9, 2025, at the Tampa Museum of Art, and attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the vital services the Children's Board of Hillsborough County provide and the ways they can support abuse prevention and ensure happy, healthy childhoods in our community.

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 April 2025, as

"CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all individuals and organizations to make children a top priority and to ensure that every child grows and reaches their full potential in safe and secure environments.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 1st day of April 2025.



Jane Castor
Mayor