

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa, Florida is a welcoming city with a richly diverse cultural background, filled with world-class attractions, entertainment venues, and major sporting events that make the community a foremost destination for visitors, commerce, and conventions; and

WHEREAS, Vinik Sports Group and Benchmark International proudly announce a multi-year naming rights partnership, marking the transition to **Benchmark International Arena** – a collaboration rooted in a shared commitment to excellence, service, and community impact; and

WHEREAS, **Benchmark International Arena**, the sports and entertainment venue formally known first as the Ice Palace, then the St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa Bay Times Forum and Amalie Arena, has served as the heart of Tampa's vibrant downtown since its opening in 1996, hosting championship hockey, world-class concerts, and more than 150 events annually, and it is home to the Tampa Bay Lightning's 41 regular season National Hockey League professional games; and

WHEREAS, Benchmark International Arena is a county-owned facility and a civic asset, and it generates a significant economic impact and supports thousands of jobs, and it welcomes millions of visitors to the Tampa Bay region each year, reflecting the aspirations and spirit of our community; and

WHEREAS, this partnership represents \$3 million in nonprofit contributions, supporting causes that matter deeply to both organizations and reflecting a shared desire to make a lasting, measurable difference in the lives of the people across Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, the naming of Benchmark International Arena represents more than a name change – it symbolizes progress, innovation, and the power of public-private collaboration to create spaces that bring people together and elevate the cultural and economic fabric of our city, and this announcement reflects the continued momentum of the Tampa Bay region as a premier destination for sports, entertainment, and investment, driven by bold vision and an unwavering belief in what is possible when we work together; and

WHEREAS, Benchmark International Arena will continue to serve as a gathering place for shared experiences including unforgettable playoff runs, concerts, community events, charitable initiatives and more, and it will strengthen the bonds among neighbors and further inspire pride in our home team and hometown.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 13, 2025, as

“BENCHMARK INTERNATIONAL ARENA DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents, businesses and visitors to join in this special celebration of partnership, community, and the exciting new chapter in our city's story, and thank the Vinik Sports Group for their leadership and Benchmark International for investing in our future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 13th day of August 2025.



Jane Castor
Mayor