

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa and the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County are committed to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all children and families in our community; and

WHEREAS, sleep-related infant deaths remain one of the leading causes of 100 percent preventable child death under the age of one, and these tragedies are often linked to unsafe environments, and safe sleep education for parents and caregivers safeguards the health and well-being of our most precious resource – children; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 3,500 infants die of sleep-related death, including sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and sudden unexpected infant death (SUID), and according to the American Academy of Pediatrics, infants are more likely to die in an adult bed than their own crib, and it is important to create a safe sleeping environment for every baby; and

WHEREAS, infant unsafe sleep can happen to any family members, regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic group, and it is vital that all family members and caregivers be taught the fundamental ABCs of infant safe sleep by ensuring infants sleep - **A**lone, on their **B**acks, and in a safety approved **C**rib; and

WHEREAS, October is nationally recognized as **Safe Sleep Awareness Month**, a time to increase awareness of the importance of the ABCs of infant safe sleep measures to increase preventable infant deaths in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the **Children’s Board of Hillsborough County**, established in 1988 with a mission of investing in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in our community, strongly recommends using a firm mattress with tightly fitted sheets, and keeping cribs free of blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and stuffed animals; and

WHEREAS, the **Safe Kids Greater Tampa** works tirelessly to educate families and caregivers about child safety, including safe sleep practices, and **Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County** provides vital support and resources to expecting and new parents to ensure the healthiest possible start for every baby; and

WHEREAS, it takes a concerted effort among neighbors, nonprofit organizations, community groups, first responders, faith-based organizations, elected officials, schools, and businesses to be advocates for safe sleep education, and the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, in partnership with Safe Kids Greater Tampa and Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County are committed to raising awareness, providing education, and distributing resources to reduce sleep-related infant deaths in our community; and

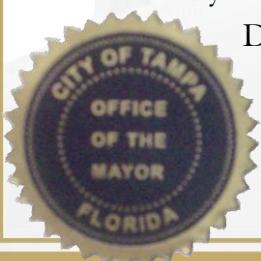
WHEREAS, the City of Tampa values the efforts of the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, Safe Kids Greater Tampa, and Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County in their commitment to the children and families and in their efforts to prevent needless infant deaths in our community.

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

“SAFE SLEEP AWARENESS MONTH”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to help support this awareness effort by increasing their knowledge of safe sleep for our youngest citizens and participate in activities that will advocate for programs that keep all children safe, providing an optimal environment for healthy families and communities, because even one preventable child death is one too many.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 7th day of October 2025.



Jane Castor
Mayor