

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region is fortunate to have many dedicated organizations that generously give of their time, energy and resources to benefit the community and those less fortunate, and the City of Tampa is appreciative of their contributions in fulfilling their needs; and

WHEREAS, **SewaDiwali** is an initiative by Dharmic Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jain communities, individuals, and organizations who believe in Sewa Dharma which means ***Service to Humanity is Service to Divinity***, and its missions which include fostering togetherness and Sewa (selfless giving) for the welfare of society by promoting the festive and enlightening spirit of Diwali; and

WHEREAS, “Sewa” is the act of selfless service embedded in Indian culture and “Diwali” is a festival that celebrates the victory of light over darkness, and the Indian American Indic Cultural and Spiritual organizations work together to hold an annual **SewaDiwali Food Drive** to feed needy families in communities across the United States in the spirit of Sewa; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Bay Indian American cultural and spiritual organizations are active in the annual SewaDiwali Food Drive event, and their efforts ***bring light through service*** and benefit so many in our community each year, and their collection of non-perishable and canned food items, and other necessities are distributed to Feeding Tampa Bay and Mort Elementary School for distribution; and

WHEREAS, the annual SewaDiwali Food Drive this year is September 28 – November 10, 2025, and the generosity of the Dharmic and Indic communities and individuals will give generously on the behalf of others, and the City of Tampa is appreciative of their efforts to give to those in our city who have vital needs such as food.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim September 28 – November 10, 2025, as

“SEWADIWALI FOOD DRIVE”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to participate in donating items to this campaign and thanking the Tampa Bay Indian American organizations in our community for their generosity and efforts over the years that help those less fortunate in our region, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 17th day of October 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor