Proclamation

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa, Florida, is unique in its rich history and diversity, and the Turkish American citizens of Tampa Bay have positively influenced our community with economic and social development contributions, leadership, and service in all aspects, including business, entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, education, medicine, civic organizations, philanthropy, public service, and more; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Turkish community are an established and vital component of the community, and proudly celebrate their heritage and cultural history by sharing their traditions, promoting a greater understanding by building relationships, and fostering friendships and cultural exchange for future generations and the communities where they live, work, study, and serve; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa, Florida, and the City of Izmir, Türkiye, officially became Sister Cities in 1993 to build a closer relationship between the two cities and their citizens, and the Tampa Bay region is proud of this alliance; and

WHEREAS, October 29, 1923, is significant as it is the date that the Republic of Türkiye was founded and the new constitution under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was adopted, and it is celebrated as **Republic Day** (*Cumhuriyet Bayramı*) with festivities that include official parades, performances, fireworks, and visits to Mustafa Atatürk's mausoleum; and

WHEREAS, the Turkish American Cultural Association of Florida (TACAF) is hosting its *2026 Cumhuriyet Bayramı Galası* | *Republic Day Ball* held at the Hunter's Green Country Club in Tampa, Florida, and the evening will include live entertainment, dancing, dinner, and will highlight cultural traditions, unity, and friendship; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 29, 2026, as

"REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE 103rd ANNIVERSARY DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Turkish members of our community for the many contributions they have made and continue to make to our city, state, and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of October 2026.

Jane Castor

Mayor