

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are conditions that affect more than 200 million people worldwide and the term covers a broad range of disorders and syndromes, many of which are misunderstood by the general public; and

WHEREAS, an *intellectual disability* is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and difficulties in a variety of everyday social and practical skills, and a *developmental disability* is attributed to a cognitive or physical impairment that results in limitations in areas such as self-care, language, and mobility; and

WHEREAS, **Best Buddies International** is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1989 with chapters worldwide, and was the first United States unified, social, and recreation program dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with IDD, and the organization allows everyone to have a friend, no matter who you are or what you are capable of; and

WHEREAS, this year, Best Buddies is celebrating 30 years of creating opportunities for inclusion for people with IDD and assisting them become independent and feel valued by society through meaningful friendships with their peers, securing successful jobs, independent living, improving public speaking, self-advocacy and communications skills, and it is accomplished through various programs that provide the necessary tools, and its vision is a world where people with IDD are so successfully integrated into schools, workplaces and communities that its current efforts and services will become unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, for three decades, Best Buddies International has been dedicated to its Mission Pillars of *One-to-One Friendships*, *Integrated Employment*, *Leadership Development*, and this year, has added its fourth pillar, *Inclusion Living*, and has established Best Buddies Living, a residential living experience for people with IDD and their peers, and locally, Best Buddies Tampa Bay has 42 school-based chapters with 414 one-to-one friendships with over 2,400 members; and

WHEREAS, the *Best Buddies Friendship Walk* (BBFW) is an annual event held in cities across the nation to raise funds to support programs, bring awareness to the community, and in honor of friendship, inclusion, and integrated employment for individuals with IDD, and locally, the Best Buddies Tampa Bay Friendship Walk is held at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida on Saturday, May 4, 2019, and the event includes food, beverages and fun for the entire family; 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 Saturday, May 4, 2019 as

“BEST BUDDIES TAMPA BAY FRIENDSHIP WALK DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting efforts of the Best Buddies organization and thanking them for their efforts in enabling people with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their full potential.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of May, 2019.





Mayor