

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the city of West Tampa, Florida was established in 1892 when Hugh Campbell Macfarlane purchased 200 acres of land just west of the Hillsborough River for development, and on May 18, 1895, West Tampa was incorporated; and

**WHEREAS**, by 1905, West Tampa became Florida's fifth largest city with a robust business community including several successful cigar factories, a streetcar service, a free library, investments in public schools, and where baseball became an important part of the community, and West Tampa continues to be a valued part of Tampa's success story with its vast contributions to the development of our community, and the cultural and historical impact it has made; and

**WHEREAS**, to celebrate the rich history and cultural diversity of West Tampa, the West Tampa CRA's (Community Redevelopment Agency) Community Advisory Committee is hosting the **Second Annual Unity Tampa Historical and Cultural Festival** on Sunday, September 29, 2019 at Julian B. Lane Riverfront Park, and the free event celebrates the history and culture of West Tampa, and it includes special tributes to members of the community who have made a significant difference, Dr. Walter L. Smith and Mrs. Ruth McNair; and

**WHEREAS**, *Dr. Walter L. Smith* is a West Tampa native well-known for his vast accomplishments and impact in higher education, at home and internationally, including as Provost of Hillsborough Community College, President of Roxbury Community College in Massachusetts, as seventh President of Florida A&M University (FAMU), he was the Founding Rector of Funda Community College in South Africa, he is a nationally recognized expert on American community colleges, the author of *The Magnificent Twelve: Florida's Black Junior Colleges* (1994), and he developed the Dr. Walter L. Smith Library in his beloved West Tampa Community; and

**WHEREAS**, *Mrs. Ruth McNair*, is a trailblazer dedicated to ensuring the West Tampa community receives vital services, safety measures, assistance and equality with the goal of maintaining and improving the historic neighborhood, and her contributions include serving as President of the West Riverfront Crime Watch Group for almost three decades, involvement with organizations such as the Tampa Homeowners Association of Neighborhoods, the CDC's Economic Development Plan, the West Tampa Overlay Plan, and many others, and she has worked tirelessly with the City of Tampa, Tampa City Council, and Hillsborough County Commissioners attending and participating in pertinent meetings, and through her efforts, commitment, determination and love for her community, West Tampa is a vibrant neighborhood with an enhanced quality of life for its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 29, 2019 as

## **“UNITY TAMPA HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join in celebrating the contributions of the community of West Tampa in our city's history, and in congratulating Dr. Walter L. Smith on this well-deserved recognition for his contributions to education in our city, state, nation, and world.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor