

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is an organization established in 1979 devoted to preserving and promoting Tampa's diverse Hispanic culture, and together with corporate partners, has honored those men and women who represent excellence by their outstanding achievements, endeavors and contributions and that have helped to enrich the lives of other Hispanics in our community; and

WHEREAS, Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will celebrate its 32nd Annual Hispanic Gala with the presentation of the **2019 Hispanic Woman of the Year Award** to a person chosen to be honored, a well-known individual admired and respected for her commitment to others, and who has dedicated her life to promoting and preserving the Hispanic culture and traditions through her community and civic service; and

WHEREAS, born in Havana, Cuba, this year's honoree is **Betty Viamontes**, who made Tampa, Florida her home at age fifteen when she arrived with the Mariel Boatlift, and she attended Hillsborough Community College and the University of South Florida where she earned Master Degrees in both Accounting and Business Administration, and thereafter worked at Tampa General Hospital for over twenty years where her roles as Manager, Director and Corporate Controller helped elevate the institution in becoming a successful, profitable, and a well-known first rate facility, and she is a Certified Public Accountant, and the Chief Financial Officer for Lions Eye Institute for Transplant and Research, Inc., earning the distinction of being the non-profit's first female executive, and she is co-owner of Waywoods Properties; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Viamontes is an accomplished author including a nonfiction drama "*The Girl from White Creek*" (2019), her biographical novel "*Waiting on Zapote Street*" (2015) which won the Latino Books Into Movies Award and was a United Nations book club selection, and many of her works bring inspiration and awareness to the reader about the history, culture and struggles of the Cuban people; and

WHEREAS, recognized for her entrepreneurial and results oriented spirit, enthusiasm, and contributions, Ms. Viamontes is well-respected for her advocacy for education and she was appointed to the Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees by Governor Rick Scott, becoming the first Hispanic female to serve as its Chairperson, and she was the Chair of the 2017 Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA). Ms. Viamonte consistently demonstrates her commitment to the Tampa Bay area and is dedicated to assisting, guiding, and educating members of the community, and she serves as an inspirational role model and certainly deserves being named the **2019 Hispanic Woman of the Year**.

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, October 12, 2019 as

BETTY VIAMONTES, HISPANIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR DAY

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon all residents to join me in recognizing, commending and thanking her for all she contributes to our community.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 12th day of October, 2019.





Mayor