

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, celebrated worldwide, the **Chinese New Year**, also known as the Lunar New Year globally, is the Spring Festival celebrating the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar, and ends on the 15th day of the year; and

WHEREAS, during the Chinese New Year, people travel great distances to gather with their families, hold reunion dinners, decorate windows and doors, light firecrackers, give money in red envelopes, and join in other traditional events, and it is a special time to honor deities and ancestors; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Chinese New Year falls on January 25, 2020, and ends with the Lantern Festival on February 8, 2020, and this is the Year of the Rat, the first of the twelve-year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese Zodiac related to the Chinese Calendar, and the Year of the Rat is associated with the Earthly Branch Symbol 子; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has a rich history and diverse population, and Chinese-Americans of our country continue to have a great impact on the nation's growth and success, serving as business and community leaders and service providers in all aspects of our nation's way of life including as public servants, philanthropists, artists, entrepreneurs, educators, scientists and more, and they have bravely defended America, serving in each branch of the United States Armed Forces with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, locally in the Tampa Bay area, the Suncoast Association of Chinese American (SACA) is a nonprofit organization established in 1982 whose mission includes organizing the Chinese American community and assisting with their needs, and promoting the Chinese culture and traditions, and SACA is hosting the **Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration** on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at Water Works Park in Tampa, Florida, and the event will include Chinese dancing and opera performances, food vendors, family oriented activities, and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 1, 2020 as

"CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon our citizens to join me in celebrating the Chinese New Year and appreciating the rich traditions and many contributions Chinese culture has made to our city, nation and the world.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of February, 2020.



Jane Castor

Mayor