

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the city of Tampa, Florida has a rich history and cultural diversity that is unique to our community, and much of it can be attributed to the pioneers and immigrants who developed the city; and

WHEREAS, Henry B. Plant opened up the Tampa area when he extended the railroad to Tampa in 1884, and started a steamship line from Tampa to Key West, Florida and to Havana, Cuba, and Don Vicente Martinez Ybor, a Cuban exile, moved his cigar business from Key West to Tampa in 1885, creating Historic Ybor City; and

WHEREAS, Ybor City became the “Cigar Capital of the World” and the cigar workers included Spanish, Italian, German and Cuban immigrants, and they brought with them their own unique customs, shaping the city into a melting-pot of ethnic groups, and Tampa became a community of multi-cultural traditions and cuisine; and

WHEREAS, it was not just the one million cigars produced in a six-month period in 1886 that made Ybor City famous, but the **Cuban Sandwich**, sometimes referred to as a *Cuban Mix*, *Mixto*, *Cuban Pressed Sandwich*, or a *Cubano*, that became a popular lunch item for these workers, and it continues to be a favorite delectable treat for residents and visitors to Tampa today; and

WHEREAS, the main ingredients of the classic Cuban Sandwich served on crusty Cuban bread that is buttered or oiled and pressed include mojo roast pork, ham, Swiss cheese, pickles, yellow mustard, and the Italian influenced the sandwich by adding Italian Genoa salami; and

WHEREAS, the **9th Annual International Cuban Sandwich Festival**, sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, is held at Centennial Park in Historic Ybor City on Sunday, March 29, 2020, and will feature the ***The Best Cuban Sandwiches in the World Contest*** with regional, national and worldwide participants coming from France and the returning popular winning team from South Korea, a goal to surpass Tampa’s previous 187’ record of the ***Biggest Cuban Sandwich in the World***, which will thereafter feed the homeless, the ***State2State Showdown***, live music, food, art and cultural exhibits, and the event will salute the Cuban Sandwich and the history of the city of Tampa.

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

“CUBAN SANDWICH MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to participate in the International Cuban Sandwich Festival event that honors Tampa’s heritage.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24th day of February, 2020.





Mayor