

# Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, and it was designed as an anti-discrimination law to protect people with disabilities and remove barriers so that people have equal access to public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, governmental services, telecommunications, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, this signing recognizes the importance of all people and has helped society see that a disability does not diminish a person, and some recognizable accomplished individuals with disabilities who have contributed to and enriched our world include Presidents Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, physicist Albert Einstein, inventor Thomas Edison, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and musician Ludwig Van Beethoven; and

**WHEREAS**, to the approximately 60 million people living in the United States with a disability, the ADA is a landmark civil rights law which has been instrumental in reducing barriers, changing perceptions and stereotyping, and in increasing community participation, thereby elevating the standard of living for persons with disabilities, their families, and the Tampa Bay community, our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa is committed to the equality of citizens and formed the **Tampa Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities** in 1986, the first of its kind in Florida, and it has become an effective advocacy organization comprised of persons with disabilities, service providers, and businesses, and their goals include increased available opportunities and quality of life for disabled persons in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa affirms the principles of equality and inclusion for persons with disabilities as set forth in the ADA, the laws of the State of Florida, and ordinances of our city, and the Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities is joining with other organizations across the nation in celebration of the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the passage of the ADA and its promise of hope that was envisioned when established, and in educating our citizens of the available resources that can help them participate more extensively in the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2020 as

## ***"AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY"***

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to familiarize themselves with the Americans with Disabilities Act and learn how they can make changes to improve the quality of life for all residents of our city by recognizing, valuing, and serving all of the diverse members of our community, including persons with disabilities, and to report incidences of discrimination to the City of Tampa Office of Human Rights by calling 813-274-5835.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, on this 26th day July, 2020.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor