

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, drug abuse is a devastating problem affecting our communities nationwide, and among Americans aged 12 years and older more than 37 million are currently illegal drug users according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS) and half of people 12 and older have used illicit drugs at least once, with drug overdose deaths in the United States consistently increasing by thirty percent annually and are nearing the one million mark since the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, the detrimental effects of drug abuse in the United States had an estimated economic impact of nearly 272 billion dollars as of the last available estimate reported in 2017, and such costs include law enforcement, health care, prevention, addiction treatment, productivity loss, and drug education; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) established June 26th as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to raise awareness and reaffirm that illicit drugs continue to pose a threat to health and public safety in our communities, and they promote various initiatives and campaigns with this year's theme "*The evidence is clear: invest in prevention,*" and messages such as *Make Health Your 'New High' in Life, Not Drugs*, to help encourage and empower individuals, especially the youth of the world, to lead healthy, drug-free lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation for a Drug Free World is a non-profit organization with a worldwide network of volunteers and its mission is empowering youth and adults with information about drugs to enable them to make informed decisions and live drug-free lives, and it accomplishes its goals by distributing educational materials to thousands of schools and more than 800 law enforcement agencies, participating in drug education lectures, and other activities and events that promote drug-free living; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Foundation for a Drug-Free World Florida Chapter is participating in the United Nations' International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with its Cycling for a Drug-Free Florida event to raise awareness for this global initiative through its continued efforts to educate others to live drug-free; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, June 26, 2024 as

***"INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE
AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING"***

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of joining the campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and in encouraging others to lead healthy, drug-free lives.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 20th day of June,



Jane Castor

Mayor