

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Hindu Samaj Inc. (dba Sanatan Mandir, Tampa) serves more than 5,000 Hindus in the Tampa Bay region and the Temple hosts community events and educational programs in addition to religious observances, and its mission is to provide a place of worship to the Hindu community and to educate children about the religious and cultural values of the Indian culture and to give the families of Indian origin the opportunity to feel a piece of their homeland right here in Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, the American citizens of the Hindu community are a vibrant part of the diverse and multiethnic society that makeup the Tampa Bay region, and their many contributions and cultural promotions have positively influenced the development and success within our community, and the Jagannath Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) is a cultural celebration that is considered one of the oldest and largest Hindu festivals that is celebrated worldwide and originated in Puri (Odisha) during the 13th century, and provides the opportunity to showcase the divine journey of Lord Jagannath and the spiritual significance it holds for family values, unity in diversity, equality of citizens and universal fraternity; and

WHEREAS, the **Annual Jagannath Chariot Festival of Tampa Bay** will be celebrated from Saturday, June 22, 2024 until Saturday July 13, 2024 and on Sunday, July 7, 2024 the inaugural annual Jagannath Ratha Yatra will be held at the Sanatan Mandir and at Water Works Park and will provide an opportunity for local residents to explore, learn and experience Indian culture through an elaborate welcome and worship ritual, music, dancing, authentic Indian food, jewelry, fine arts, clothing, artifacts, yoga and meditation; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Festival will benefit the maintenance of the Indian heritage, and the youth of the community through celebration and promotion of unity, diversity, inclusivity, and the importance of family values; 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 Sunday, July 7, 2024 as

“JAGANNATH CHARIOT FESTIVAL DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in thanking the Hindu Samaj of Tampa Bay for organizing the Jagannath Chariot Festival of Tampa Bay that provides the opportunity to celebrate the rich Indian culture.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 22nd day of June 2024.



Jane Castor
Mayor