

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)** is a worldwide Hindu denomination dedicated to fostering faith, inspiring service, and promoting better living, and it is committed to serving the world by caring for individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** the first BAPS Hindu mandir (temple) in the United States was established in New York City, New York on August 4, 1974, by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj (1921-2016), and BAPS North America has since grown to over 100 mandirs throughout the nation, including the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Tampa, Florida; and

**WHEREAS,** celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, BAPS North America is committed to serving society, improving the quality of life for citizens, bettering families, communities, the world, and the future, and it is dedicated to its core values of *Family, Service, Culture, Spirituality, and Youth Development*; and

**WHEREAS,** a mandir is a sacred Hindu place of worship, offering a welcoming and spiritual space for thousands of families as well as worship, fellowship, communal meals, education, and activities, creating a true home for the faithful, and they offer youth programs that encourage and mold young people to live their lives with integrity and character that reflect the highest ideals; and

**WHEREAS,** BAPS mandirs bring to life His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj's words, "*In the joy of others lies our own*" through support for those in need including a variety of community efforts such as health fairs, food drives, and disaster relief work, and the volunteers are dedicated to answering the call to serve humbly, selflessly, and inspirationally; and

**WHEREAS,** for five decades, BAPS North America mandirs have assisted immigrants to the United States retain their connection to their faith while embracing and joining in American civic life, and they have added to the rich tapestry of diversity that makes our nation, state, and city a beautiful place to call home.

**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, August 4, 2024, as

## **“BAPS NORTH AMERICA ANNIVERSARY DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join me in commending all those involved for their commitment to improving our communities and the lives of our citizens, and in congratulating BAPS North America on this milestone 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and in thanking them for their many contributions over the years.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of July 2024.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor