

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among American women, ovarian cancer affects one in 78 females of all ages, and in 2024, approximately 19,680 new cases are expected to be diagnosed around the nation with an estimation of 12,740 deaths, including 1,650 new cases in Florida with 1,050 deaths, and while all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, hereditary predisposition places them at a higher risk, and women of color, those of low-income and those who live in rural areas have more barriers to accessing standard quality care; and

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is one of the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers, and while mammograms can detect breast cancer and a Papanicolaou (Pap) test can indicate cervical cancer, there is currently not an effective diagnostic tool for ovarian cancer screening, so a great number of cases are not diagnosed until in the advanced stages due to lack of early detection testing, and the subtlety and lack of awareness of symptoms; and

WHEREAS, with the survival rate varying greatly depending on the stage of the diagnosis, it is imperative that we strive for improved awareness, funding for research, and promoting the education of women and physicians about the subtle symptoms and risk factors of ovarian cancer; and

WHEREAS, incorporated in 1994, **Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance** (OCRA) is the leading organization in the world fighting ovarian cancer on all fronts while supporting patients and their families, and are dedicated to improving treatments and curing ovarian cancer through research; and

WHEREAS, September is nationally recognized as **Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**, and the color **teal** is utilized to promote awareness and encourage the community to display the color in recognition of this important cause, and during the month, many businesses, organizations, and centers around the Tampa Bay community will promote Ovarian Cancer awareness and share lifesaving information; and

WHEREAS, locally, the **Celma Mastry Ovarian Cancer Foundation** endeavors to bring awareness to the Tampa Bay region and raise needed funding for research, advocacy and support through its various initiatives and programs including its annual **One Step Closer to the Cure** walk/run event on Sunday, September 1, 2024, and the City of Tampa is pleased to join the organization, sponsors, and volunteers in promoting this important awareness campaign.

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 September 2024 as

“OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to take part in activities which will raise awareness about the symptoms and diagnostic tools available for this disease, and display and wear the color **teal** throughout the month of September to bring attention to ovarian cancer and the vital need for a cure.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 14th day of August 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor