

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, accidental drowning is greatly preventable with water safety education and formal swimming lessons, essential for children and their caregivers to ensure the health and well-being of our young citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, in the state of Florida, where communities have an abundance of beaches, lakes, swimming pools, and waterparks, the death rate among children ages one-to-four is the highest in the United States, and public awareness and education focused on young children is vital to preventing fatal and non-fatal drowning; and

WHEREAS, **National Water Safety Month** is an annual campaign coordinated by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals along with support from the National Recreation & Parks Association, the American Red Cross, and the World Waterpark Association to bring awareness to the public about safe, enjoyable aquatic activities; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County recognizes that it takes a collaborative effort among neighbors, non-profit and faith-based organizations, community groups, first responders, elected officials and governments, schools, and businesses to be advocates for water safety education; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County established its *Children's Board Mobil Swim Program* to provide swimming lessons and water safety education by bringing lifeguards and swim instructors apartment complexes and neighborhood association pools to teach lifesaving skills to the children in those communities, and the organization's *Safe Kids Greater Tampa* provides ongoing valuable education to prevent needless child drowning deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2019 as

"NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all residents to join the Children's Board of Hillsborough County in their dedication and efforts in preventing drowning of infants and young children.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 1st day of May, 2019.



Jane Castor

Mayor