

# Proclamation



*Jane Castor, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, mental health is an essential part of overall health, and each year, millions of Americans suffer with mental illness, and it is vital that individuals have access to early screening, assessment and referral to treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness, including depression, schizophrenia, and disorders such as bipolar, obsessive compulsive, severe anxiety, borderline personality and post-traumatic stress affects approximately one in five people in the United States each year, and it touches all ages, genders, races and nationalities in every community; and

**WHEREAS**, mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly including family members, friends and coworkers, and those who suffer from mental illness and their families need to stay informed so that they can exercise choice over their care decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of available mental health treatment can increase and complicate an individual's symptoms, and could lead to chronic medical conditions, unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, inappropriate incarceration, and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, effective methods for reducing the stigma and isolation associated with mental illness are accomplished by building awareness and understanding of mental illness, increasing access to treatment and ensuring families who are struggling know that they are not alone in their journeys; and

**WHEREAS**, founded in 1979, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is dedicated to building better lives for millions of Americans affected by mental illness, and through the organization's efforts, the United States Congress established National Mental Illness Awareness Week in 1990, and it is held the first full week in October, to educate and bring awareness about mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, locally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness Hillsborough is hosting several occasions during National Mental Illness Awareness Week including a Crisis Intervention Training with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, a Networking Awareness Evening at The Blind Tiger Café, and a Cup O' Joe Networking event at The Portico Café.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2019 as

## **“NATIONAL MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and welcome all citizens to join me in thanking the National Alliance on Mental Health and other dedicated organizations, mental health professionals, advocates and support groups for their commitment to building better lives for those affected with mental illness.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2019.



*Jane Castor*  
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Mayor