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Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, Tampa, Florida is has a unique culture and rich heritage, and our city is proud to be well-known globally as a diverse and inclusive community, and celebrates all its citizens, businesses and organizations for the contributions and positive impact they make within our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers established LGBT Center Awareness Day as a national day of action, held each year on October 19th, and its mission is to focus on awareness around the work of the LGBT community centers everywhere; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ centers continue to build, unite, and empower the LGBTQ+ community by offering services that include social services, mental health counseling, cultural programs, recreational activities, libraries, educational programs, support groups, youth support, elder support, computer access, and care, just to name a few; and

WHEREAS, locally, Metro Inclusive Health, established in 1993, is a non-profit organization, and an organizing partner of CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers, and it is committed to providing quality health and wellness services that are inclusive, relevant, supportive, and represent the lifetime continuum of the diverse people in our community, and its mission includes fostering diversity within the region regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or economic status, and Metro Inclusive Health has provided approximately \$370,000 in health care services through its "Copay It Forward" program which serves individuals in need in our area; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 19, 2019, volunteers are joining with CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers and its partners including The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals and Metro Inclusive Health to promote LGBT Center Awareness Day with the goal of improving widespread understanding of the invaluable services and community programming provided by centers every day in Tampa, and around the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim Saturday, October 19, 2019 as

"LGBT CENTER AWARENESS DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join in respecting the rights of all people, and celebrate the diversity and richness of our city by supporting and participating in LGBT Center Awareness Day.

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

Mayor

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