

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, eating disorders are complex biologically based illnesses that include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder, and others, and it can affect any gender, age, race, ethnicity, body shape and weight, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, eating disorders can cause serious physical health consequences including irregular heartbeats, heart disease, heart and kidney failures, osteoporosis, gastric rupture, tooth decay, obesity, gallbladder disease, diabetes, and it can lead to death, but early detection and intervention can result in a full recovery in many cases, and personalized treatments and therapies are available for those diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, anorexia nervosa is listed as the having the highest mortality rate among all psychiatric illnesses with approximately one person dying every 62 minutes due to their struggle with an eating disorder, and it is estimated that more than 30 million Americans will be affected within their lifetime, with 700,000 of them living in Florida; and

WHEREAS, held annually beginning on the last Monday in February, **National Eating Disorders Awareness Week** was established to bring awareness about eating disorders including the myths and misunderstandings, symptoms, and what treatments and support are available, and this year it is held February 24-March 1, 2020, with the theme *Come As You Are: Hindsight is 2020*; and

WHEREAS, established in 2000, the Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness (The Alliance) is national nonprofit dedicated to providing programs and activities aimed at outreach, education, early intervention, and advocacy for all eating disorders, and they provide presentations on eating disorders, positive body image, and self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, to raise awareness and needed funding, The Alliance in partnership and the International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals Foundation (iaedp Foundation) are hosting the **2020 Not One More: The Alliance Walk for Eating Disorders Awareness** on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, and the event promotes a morning of support, recovery, hope, and community

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 24-March 1, 2020 as

“NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to increase their understanding of these serious disorders, and thank the healthcare professionals and nonprofit organizations for their commitment to those struggling with eating disorders and who provide support, understanding and empowerment.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 22nd day of January, 2020.





Mayor