Proclamation

Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among American women and the risk for being diagnosed is one in 78 females of all ages, and in 2025, approximately 20,890 new cases are expected to be diagnosed with an estimation of 12,730 deaths, including 1,820 new cases in Florida with 1,050 deaths, and while all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, hereditary predisposition creates an up to 30 percent 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 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 and advocating on all fronts while supporting patients and their families, and are dedicated to improving treatments and curing ovarian cancer through research, and has invested $128 million toward finding a cure for ovarian and gynecologic cancers; 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**, whose mission includes uniting family, friends, and community to fight ovarian cancer, 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 Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Albert Whitted Park in St. Petersburg, 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 2025 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 15th day of August 2025.

Jane Castor

Mayor