

Proclamation

City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

WHEREAS, John Cocoris brought 500 deep sea diver crews from the Dodecanese Islands of Kalymnos, Halki and Symi in 1905, revolutionizing the local sponge industry and causing Tarpon Springs to be known as the Sponge Capitol of the World, and

WHEREAS, Greeks introduced the Epiphany service with men diving for the cross at Spring Bayou, which commemorates the baptism of Christ, attracts people from America and the world on January 6 each year and is the largest Epiphany event in America, and

WHEREAS, the Greek community started restaurants, groceries, coffee shops and taverns, to sell the products needed by Greek residents and which have become an important element in Tarpon Springs' commerce, and

WHEREAS, the Greek culture has significantly enhanced the Tarpon Springs community, and

WHEREAS, the population of Tarpon Springs has the largest percentage of Greek-Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society, Inc. has established a special exhibit to commemorate and celebrate the contribution made by the Greek immigrants from the mainland and all of the Greek islands;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Alahouzos, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2018, be recognized by the City of Tarpon Springs in support of

TARPON SPRINGS GREEK HISTORY MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Tarpon Springs, Florida, to be affixed this 9th day of January, 2018.

City Clerk & Collector

Mayor