

# Office of the Mayor



## Proclamation

**Whereas**, April 10<sup>th</sup> has been adopted by the Gopher Tortoise Council as Gopher Tortoise Day; and

**Whereas**, in Florida, Gopher Tortoise are found in parts of all 67 counties, including in Venice and in Sarasota County, and are frequently encountered in neighborhoods along roadways, and in many Florida's public parks and forest; and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise has been living on the Earth for 500,000 to 2 million years; and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise today is, in the State of Florida, listed as threatened, and in parts of the U.S., is federally listed as threatened; and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species; and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise's burrow protects more than 360 other species, some of which are also listed as threatened; and

**Whereas**, the Gopher Tortoise's habitat needs protection and public awareness will help increase that protection; and

**Whereas**, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in our area helps to enhance and sustain the area's ecology and provides citizens with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

**Now therefore**, I, Nick Pachota, Mayor of the City of Venice on behalf of the Venice City Council do hereby proclaim April 10, 2023 as

## ***Gopher Tortoise Day***

in the City of Venice and urge all citizens to help protect this species through education and awareness.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Venice to be affixed this 28th day of March, 2023.

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Nick Pachota, Mayor