

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the city of Tampa, Florida boasts excellent weather and numerous waterways for experienced and novice boaters to enjoy what our community and state offers, which makes for an unparalleled boating experience; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida has the second longest coastline in the United States of America, at nearly 1,200 miles, making boating a popular water sport for residents and visitors alike, and with the state ranking first in the nation in terms of number of registered vessels, and nearly 100,000 registered in the Tampa Bay area alone, waterways can become congested and present a greater safety risk; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States with approximately 71 percent of these caused by drowning, and statistics indicate that the state of Florida led the nation in year 2012 in boating accidents at 662, with the number of fatalities as a result of these accidents at 50 individuals and property damage that totaled nearly \$7 million; and

**WHEREAS**, although boating is a wonderful form of water recreation, and an important industry in the Tampa Bay region with an economic impact of over \$2.5 million annually, remaining aware of the dangers involved in boating is important, and boating safety is crucial to ensuring the waterways remain a safe place of relaxation and enjoyment; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Safe Boating Council and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary stress the importance of operating watercraft in a smart and safe manner, and to strive to ensure that parties are taking all necessary safety precautions including the storage and use of life jackets, recognizing that hundreds of lives could be saved each year if more boaters would wear these life-saving devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 North American Safe Boating Campaign theme is **Life Jackets Save Lives – Wear It!**, focusing on life jacket and boating safety awareness, with the mission of promoting safe boating habits, and City of Tampa is proud to join with the sponsors and other municipalities across our nation in observance of this most important public safety campaign.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2014 as

## ***“NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK”***

in the City of Tampa, Florida and call upon each citizen to appreciate the efforts National Safe Boating Council and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary as they work to encourage our community to practice safe boating procedures including the use of life jackets while on the water.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor