

# 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 approximately 100,000 registered boats in the Tampa Bay area, 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 the United States Coast Guard reporting drowning as the cause of death in almost 75 percent of the fatalities, and of those, 84 percent were not wearing life jackets; and

**WHEREAS**, although boating is a wonderful form of water recreation, and an important industry with a \$72 billion economic impact nationally, 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 and their guests would wear these life-saving devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme **Wear It!** promotes boating safety including the voluntary and consistent wearing of life jackets, and the National Safe Boating Council, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Canadian Safe Boating Council are hosting **National Safe Boating Week**, and participants around the globe will gather for **Ready, Set, Wear It**, in an attempt to set a World's Record for the number of life jackets worn and inflatable life jackets inflated in order to bring awareness to boating enthusiasts and others about this important 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 16-22, 2015 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 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor