

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 950,000 registered boats in the state, waterways can become congested and present a greater safety risk; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest United States Coast Guard statistics, drowning in the nation is the reported cause of death in approximately 75 percent of all boating fatalities, and of those, 84 percent of the individuals were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, although boating is a wonderful form of water recreation and an important industry with an estimated \$121.5 billion economic impact nationally according to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, 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* (NSBC), a coalition of more than 330 national and international organizations established in 1958, 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 NSBC strives to inform the public through education, outreach and training, and its yearlong theme **Wear It!** promotes boating safety including the voluntary and consistent wearing of life jackets, and the organization, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Canadian Safe Boating Council are hosting **National Safe Boating Week** in order to bring awareness to boating enthusiasts and others about this important campaign, and it features **Ready, Set, Wear It** on Saturday, May 20, 2017 with participants gathering to set a new World's Record of more than 10,917 life jackets worn and inflatable jackets inflated to bring attention to responsible boating; and the National Safe Boating Council's **Wear It!** campaign was recognized by *PR News* at the 2015 Platinum PR Awards in New York, New York for its boating safety efforts.

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 20-26, 2017 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.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor