

Proclamation



Jane Castor, 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 930,000 registered boats in the state, waterways can become congested and present a greater safety risk; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity, and according to the latest United States Coast Guard reports, boating accidents nationwide are largely attributed to human error and drowning is the reported cause of death in approximately 75 percent of all boating accidents, and of those, a significant number of individuals were not wearing life jackets which most likely would have saved their life; and

WHEREAS, although boating is a wonderful form of water recreation and an important industry with a substantial 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 can be accomplished through basic boating safety procedures including carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober and alert when navigating; and

WHEREAS, the *National Safe Boating Council* (NSBC), a coalition of more than 500 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, **National Safe Boating Week** is an awareness campaign observed annually during the seven-day period prior to Memorial Day, which traditionally starts the boating season, and it strives to educate the boaters and the public about important life-saving tips so they may have a safer, more enjoyable experience out on the water throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, 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, 2025, 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 9th day of May 2025.



Jane Castor

Mayor