

**(DRAFT – 7 SIGNATURES IN 2025)**

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

- WHEREAS,** recreational boating continues to be a popular activity for millions of Americans, providing opportunities for relaxation, adventure, and enjoyment on our nation's waterways; and
- WHEREAS,** with over 100 million Americans participating in boating each year, ensuring their safety is of paramount importance; and
- WHEREAS,** on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States, with approximately 75 percent of these fatalities caused by drowning; and
- WHEREAS,** the vast majority of these accidents result from human error or poor judgment rather than boat, equipment, or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Coast Guard estimates that the use of life jackets could prevent nearly 85 percent of boating-related drowning fatalities; and
- WHEREAS,** today's life jackets are more comfortable, attractive, and wearable than ever before, and their consistent use significantly enhances safety on the water; and
- WHEREAS,** safe boating begins with preparation, including carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communication equipment, participating in boat safety courses, undergoing free boat safety checks, and staying sober while operating a vessel; and
- WHEREAS,** National Safe Boating Week serves as an opportunity to promote these essential safety measures and raise awareness about the importance of responsible boating practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners that **May 16-22, 2026**, be recognized as:

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this **XXth** day of May 2026.