

Pinellas County Board of Commissioners
Proclamation National Safe Boating Week





PROCLAMATION

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

- WHEREAS,** for over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling, and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America's beautiful waters responsibly; and
- WHEREAS,** Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 83 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America's coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season; and
- WHEREAS,** National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS,** on average, 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; 75 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning; and
- WHEREAS,** in Fiscal Year 2022, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section responded to total of thirty-eight distressed vessels and one capsized vessel; and
- WHEREAS,** in Fiscal Year 2022, the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Section responded to total of four overdue swimmer/fishermen/divers, and two stranded swimmers; and
- WHEREAS,** in Fiscal Year 2022 the CNMI had a total of three near-drowning cases and one drowning case resulting in death; and
- WHEREAS,** the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS,** a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that the week of May 18-24, 2024, be recognized as

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

KATHLEEN PETERS, Chairwoman

BRIAN SCOTT, Vice Chair

DAVE EGGERS, Commissioner

RENÉ FLOWERS, Commissioner

CHARLIE JUSTICE, Commissioner

CHRIS LATVALA, Commissioner

JANET C. LONG, Commissioner