

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the seven-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend was proclaimed as “National Safe Boating Week”; and

WHEREAS, recreational boating has grown into one of our nation’s most popular pastimes and as the summer approaches, millions of Americans will enjoy our country’s beautiful waters; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard recommends four guidelines for safe boating: wear properly fitted life jackets, get vessels checked for safety, never boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and get proper training in the safe operation of boats; and

WHEREAS, in the U.S., an average of 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents caused by human error or poor judgment. Nearly 71% of these fatalities are caused by drowning which could have been prevented by the use of life jackets; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard is promoting the use of appropriate safety measures to save lives and reduce the number of injuries caused by boating accidents while highlighting the importance of wearing life jackets which have become more comfortable, attractive, stylish and wearable than in the past.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of May 21 – 27, 2016, as:

## National Safe Boating Week

as the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating and encourage all citizens to not only practice safe boating habits, but to also “Wear It!”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

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MAYOR / COMMISSIONER