

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 2024 –

-Wear Your Life Jacket, It Floats, You Don't-

WHEREAS, Florida's waterways give boating enthusiasts the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, U. S. Coast Guard statistics show that drowning was the reported cause of death in four out of five recreational boating fatalities, and that 75% of those who drowned were not wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, open motorboats accounted for 47% of the most common type of vessel involved in reported accidents, followed by 15% for kayaks and 7% for personal watercrafts; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of those accidents were caused by human error and operators who used poor judgment or were inexperienced. In many cases, boat operators received no safety instructions, and many of those who lost their lives could have been saved had they been wearing life jackets; and

WHEREAS, by taking simple precautions such as taking a boating safety course, getting a free Vessel Safety Check, never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and by wearing a life jacket, recreational boaters can reduce the risk of accidents and ensure they enjoy their time on the water responsibly; and

WHEREAS, every year, lives are lost in boating accidents despite the educational efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Sheriff's Office and local agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim May 18-24, 2024 as **SAFE BOATING WEEK** in Hernando County and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners urge all citizens who boat to practice safe boating habits and wear a personal flotation device at all times while boating.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 14th day of May 2024, A.D.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Elizabeth Narverud
Chairperson

John Allocco
Commissioner

Brian Hawkins
Vice Chairman

Steve Champion
Commissioner

Jerry Campbell
Second Vice Chairman