

**Whereas**, recreational boating is fun and enjoyable, and we are fortunate that we have sufficient resources to accommodate the wide variety of pleasure boating demands; and

**Whereas**, our waterways can become crowded and be a place of chaos and confusion to the unprepared; and

**Whereas**, on average, 700 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S.; nearly 70% of these are fatalities caused by drowning; 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; and

**Whereas**, modern life jackets are more comfortable, more attractive, and more wearable than styles of years past and deserve a fresh look by today's boating public.

**Whereas**, awareness brings the propensity for precautionary measures; and

**Whereas**, the message of boating safety needs to be spread throughout the entire year; and

**Therefore, I, John R. Marks, III, Mayor of the City of Tallahassee**, do hereby support the goals of the North American Safe Boating Campaign and **proclaim May 17-23, 2008**, as

## **National Safe Boating Week**

and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating and I urge all those who boat to **"Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it."** and practice safe boating habits.