



- WHEREAS** recreational boating is a major activity for the citizens of the City of Key West; and
- WHEREAS** the ability to operate boats safely is a significant enhancement to the enjoyment of this activity; and
- WHEREAS** the United States Power Squadrons through its local Key West Sail and Power Squadron is joined with the Key West City Commission in promoting education about safe boating for all of our citizens; and
- WHEREAS** the Key West Sail and Power Squadron provides a valuable service to the community through its activities including boating safety education and complementary vessel safety examinations to the boating public; and
- WHEREAS** the Key West Sail and Power Squadron is sponsoring a week-long event featuring a variety of boating safety experiences that is open to the community free of charge; and
- WHEREAS** it is fact that 75% of all persons that go overboard drown, and that 87% of those were reported to have been able to swim; and
- WHEREAS** the vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error or poor judgement and not due to boat, equipment or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS** in fact 100% of drowning fatalities were not wearing a lifejacket, and most of those boaters who lost their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
the week of May 21st -28th, 2016 as

National Boating Safety Week

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" I would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to participate fittingly in the observation.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 17th day of May 2016.

Craig Cates, MAYOR