



- 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 an event featuring a variety of boating safety experiences that is open to the community free of charge, and
- WHEREAS, it is a 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 judgment and not due to boat, equipment or environmental factors; and
- WHEREAS, it is a fact that 100% of drowning fatalities were not wearing a life jacket; and
- WHEREAS, most of those boaters who lost 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
May 21-28, 2017 as

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" and urge those who boat to "Boat Smart - Boat Safe- and Wear It", and to practice safe boating habits at all times.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 16th day of May, 2017.

Craig Cates, Mayor