



**PROCLAMATION 2023-02**  
**National Safe Boating Week**

**WHEREAS**, the Low Country is blessed with a dazzling abundance of salt and freshwater venues offering ready access for those residents and visitors wishing to enjoy recreational boating and fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, a steadily growing interest in such pursuits can result in waterways crowded with people new to the activity and unfamiliar with the practices and behaviors that keep everyone safe; and

**WHEREAS**, ignorance of maritime "Rules of the Road," consuming alcohol and recreational drugs while operating watercraft, excessive speeding, and failure to wear a personal flotation device exemplify hazardous conduct; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 750 people died in boating accidents in the U.S. in 2020, three quarters of whom drowned and nearly nine out of ten of those victims were not wearing life jackets; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the 5,000 boating accidents reported in 2020 were the result of human error and poor judgment rather than equipment failure or environmental factors; and

**WHEREAS**, most tragedies on the water can be prevented by acquiring the knowledge of safe boat handling, exercising common sense and self-control and exhibiting respect for others;

**NOW THEREFORE**, on this day, May 23, 2023, the Isle of Palms City Council urges all those who pursue enjoyment on our fabulous waters do so while wearing life jackets and practicing safe boating habits, and hereby proclaim May 20-26 to be National Safe Boating Week.

Phillip Pounds, Mayor

(Seal) Attest:

Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk

