

# PROCLAMATION



State of Florida  
Collier County  
City of Marco Island

## **NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS,** Florida ranks first in the country in child drowning incidents, while in Collier County, drowning is the leading external cause of death for children 1-4 years old; and

**WHEREAS,** NCH Safe & Healthy Children Coalition of Collier County, a group of over 70 local agencies working to improve health outcomes and prevent childhood injury, is committed to reversing these disturbing trends; and

**WHEREAS,** the NCH Safe & Healthy Children Coalition has implemented a comprehensive drowning prevention program based on research by the National Drowning Prevention Alliance, recognizing that multiple layers of protection including barriers, swim instruction, proper rescue techniques, and CPR training are necessary; and

**WHEREAS,** as one aspect of the program, in March 2012, the Coalition began offering SWIM Central, a water safety course, and now has taught over 97,680 lessons to nearly 12,561 children; and

**WHEREAS,** in February 2014, the Coalition launched the "Kids Don't Float Life Jacket Loaner Program, with 15 loaner stations at lakes and beaches throughout the county, each with 20 life jackets in a range of sizes; and

**WHEREAS,** Stewie the Duck, water safety mascot, joined the Coalition in 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** drowning prevention is the first step in developing a healthy relationship with the water, a relationship that can combat physical inactivity and promote lifelong fitness.

**NOW THEREFORE,** be it proclaimed by the City Council of the City of Marco Island, Florida, that May 2025 be designated as **DROWNING PREVENTION MONTH IN COLLIER COUNTY.**

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

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Erik Brechnitz, Council Chairman

**ATTEST**

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Joan Taylor, City Clerk