

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, with enough children drowning each year to fill three to four preschool classrooms, while in Collier County, drowning is the leading external cause of death in 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 52,745 lessons to nearly 6,176 children; and

WHEREAS, in February 2014, the Coalition launched the “Kids Don’t Float ... Give Them Something That Does” Life Jacket Loaner Program with loaner stations located at beaches in Marco Island; 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 that May 2019 be designated as

DROWNING PREVENTION MONTH

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 6th day of May 2019.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Chairman

ATTEST

Laura Litzan, City Clerk