

## PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, problem gambling is a serious public health issue affecting one to three percent of the general adult population and often results in personal, financial, familial, legal, and other costs, including a high risk of suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that over 200,000 Florida adults of diverse age, race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status suffer from past-year gambling problems, and 800,000 more are at risk of developing such difficulties, constituting 4.7% of the adult population ages 18 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, it is further important to note that these statistics do not account for youth, who are increasingly and deceptively exposed to gambling concepts and are at an increased risk for developing gambling-related problems; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also essential to recognize problem gambling as a societal issue, with 8-10 additional people adversely impacted by every problem gambler, increasing the affected population by an estimated additional 1.5 million individuals, with conservative projected social costs amounting to more than \$9 billion nationally each year; and

**WHEREAS**, problem gambling is treatable for those who seek help, which minimizes the harm to Floridians and to the State as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling's (FCCG's) public awareness campaign provides an opportunity to educate the public, policymakers, educators, businesses, mental health and criminal justice professionals, and others, about the potential adverse effects of gambling, as well as social, legal, financial, and emotional impacts and available supports; and

**WHEREAS**, free referrals to problem gambling resources and supports, including to licensed and certified treatment providers, self-help support groups, the FCCG's Online Program for Problem Gamblers (OPPG), the FCCG's Peer Connect Program, financial supports, legal resources, and many more are readily available to all Floridians by calling or texting the 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine; and

**WHEREAS**, any individual, professional, or other organization dedicated to assisting those in need can participate in raising awareness and preventing problem gambling by promoting the statewide, confidential, multilingual, toll-free, and 24/7 888-ADMIT-IT Problem Gambling HelpLine; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Flagler Beach can demonstrate its support in addressing problem gambling by raising public awareness through declaration of proclamation of the month of **March 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month** in City of Flagler Beach.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Suzie Johnston, Mayor of the City of Flagler Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2024 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in City of Flagler Beach.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_