



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the month of May is celebrated as the National Water Safety Month to highlight water awareness and swim safety; this month serves as a crucial reminder of the paramount importance of water safety, as individuals of all ages engage in recreational activities in pools, rivers, and lakes in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins, is committed to the safety and well-being of our citizens, and we recognize the inherent risks associated with aquatic recreation; and

WHEREAS, drowning remains a significant public health concern, with statistics revealing that it is a leading cause of unintentional injury death, particularly among children aged 1-4 years old, and the American Red Cross states that approximately 200 young children drown in backyard swimming pools each year; and the National Safety Council states an average of 379 drownings occur annually in rivers and lakes across the United States; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and support the mission of the American Red Cross to create and cultivate opportunities for participation and achievement in swimming. We are dedicated to reducing the incidents of drowning and preventing tragedy around the water; and

WHEREAS, we thank the lifeguards, swim instructors and coaches who dedicate their time to create a safe environment for our athletes to reach their fullest potential. We thank our first responders who protect our community while we enjoy the natural outdoor aquatic environments in Fort Collins; and

WHEREAS, we, the City of Fort Collins exemplifies dedication to water safety through its programs and initiatives, collaborating with organizations like the American Red Cross and community partners to raise awareness and educate the community about the importance of water safety during National Water Safety Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Emily Francis, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024, as

NATIONAL WATER SAFETY MONTH

We urge all citizens to prioritize water safety, take advantage of available resources and training opportunities, and work together to create a culture of safety in and around water. By fostering awareness, education, and collaboration, we can prevent drownings, save lives, and ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits of water recreation safely.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 7th day of May, 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Interim City Clerk