

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has designated January, annually, as FLORIDA JEWISH HISTORY MONTH; and

WHEREAS, the earliest documented entry of Jews into our nation occurred over 350 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the earliest documented entry of Jews into Florida took place in 1753 when three Jewish businessmen were forced to leave Louisiana and settled in Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, David Levy Yulee, Florida's first United States Senator and a Jew, practiced law in St. Augustine; and

WHEREAS, persons of the Jewish faith have been an integral and important part of the vibrant social and business fabric of St. Johns County for generations; and

WHEREAS, Temple Bet Yam has embarked on a program to build the first new synagogue in St. Augustine in over seventy-five years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, hereby proclaims January, 2006, as FLORIDA JEWISH HISTORY MONTH, and calls upon all residents of the City of St. Augustine to join with us in celebration of this important date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to be affixed on this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and six, in the four hundred and fortieth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

George Gardner, Mayor