

❧ PROCLAMATION ❧

WHEREAS, Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, 60 to 80 percent of drug offenders sentenced to prison and over 40 percent sentenced to probation recidivate, and whereas fewer than 17 percent of Drug Court Graduates recidivate; and

WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program evaluations and at least four meta analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts are demonstratively effective and significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes, substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Drug Court movement has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,301 operational Drug Courts and 3,410 problem solving courts as of December 2008; and

WHEREAS, Friday, May 15, 2009 marks National Drug Court Commencement Day, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families.

*NOW, THEREFORE, WE, The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida does hereby proclaim May, 2009 as: **"NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH"** in the City of St. Augustine and urge all citizens to join the City Commission in recognizing the significant contributions of drug courts, and to congratulate drug court graduates this year.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Augustine to be affixed this 27th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand nine and the four hundred and forty third year of the founding of Saint Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.