

❖❖ P R O C L A M A T I O N ❖❖

*WHEREAS, September 12-18, 2009, has been declared **NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK** in consideration of the number of children injured in motor vehicle crashes every single day; and*

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, while 98 percent of America's infants and 96 percent of children age 1 to 3 are now regularly restrained, not enough children of all ages are restrained properly for their size and age; and

WHEREAS, only 37 percent of children age 4 to 7 who should be using booster seats to protect them are actually in them, and this puts children at an unnecessary risk of being injured or killed in crashes because they are simply in the wrong restraint for their size; and

*WHEREAS, the **4 Steps for Kids** start at birth, with rear-facing child safety seats, a forward-facing child safety seat (when at the minimum age of 1 and at least 20 pounds), a booster seat (when around age 4 and at least 40 pounds) and finally an adult seat belt (when at age 8 or at least 4'9" tall), but the safest place for all children up to age 13 is in the back seat; and*

WHEREAS, Child Passenger Safety Week provides communities and organizations an opportunity to join together through public information, education, and enforcement efforts to work toward increasing the correct use of safety seats and booster seats by focusing public attention on the lifesaving benefits that will help to significantly reduce death and serious injury to children in the City of St. Augustine:

***NOW, THEREFORE,** the City Commission of St. Augustine, in recognition of the efforts of St. Johns County Tax Collector Dennis W. Hollingsworth and his **PROJECT BUCKLE UP** program, does hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2009, as Child Passenger Safety Week, and urges all residents to make every effort to ensure their children are properly restrained in their vehicles by contacting **PROJECT BUCKLE UP** for assistance.*

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 14th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand nine and the four hundred and forty-fourth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.*

Joseph L. Boles Jr., Mayor