

❧ **PROCLAMATION** ❧

*WHEREAS, treatment and recovery improve the community's welfare and provide a renewed outlook on life for those who struggle with substance use disorders; and*

*WHEREAS, it is estimated that 9.4% of the U.S. population ages 12 and older suffer from a substance abuse disorder making it more common than people living with coronary health disease, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease combined; and in St. Johns County, it is estimated that 17,000 people suffer from the disease of addiction; and*

*WHEREAS, studies have indicated that 8.9 percent of people who made an effort to get treatment, but did not receive it, were concerned that receiving treatment might cause neighbors or community members to have negative opinions of them. However, most say they would not have a negative opinion of a relative or friend in recovery from an addiction; and*

*WHEREAS, EPIC Community Services is a valued community asset that assists with treatment and recovery and seeks to increase people's awareness about how substance use disorders affect children, families, and our society; and*

*WHEREAS, such education is essential to overcoming misconceptions and achieving long-term recovery; and*

*WHEREAS, to help achieve this goal, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and EPIC Community Services invite all residents of St. Augustine to support the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, does hereby proclaim the month of September 2009 as *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month* and support this year's theme, "*Join The Voices For Recovery: TOGETHER WE LEARN, TOGETHER WE HEAL.*"*

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

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*Joseph L. Boles Jr., Mayor*