

❧ ❧ PROCLAMATION ❧ ❧

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a public safety issue whose actions impact family, friends, and businesses with significant societal and economic costs, affecting more than one million Floridians of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds in all communities; and

WHEREAS, with each problem gambler directly affecting 8-10 individuals with negative consequences to personal and social relationships of the immediate family to include physical violence and emotional abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling's public awareness campaign provides an opportunity to educate the public, policymakers, educators, businesses, mental health, and criminal justice professionals, and others, about the adverse effects of gambling, its social, legal, financial, and emotional impacts, as well as available treatment; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is treatable for those who seek help, which minimizes the harm to Floridians and to the state as a whole; and

WHEREAS, numerous individuals, professionals, and organizations who are dedicated to assisting families in need can participate in preventing problem gambling by promoting the statewide 24-hour Help-Line, 888-ADMIT-IT, and by making assessments and treatment readily available; and

WHEREAS, municipalities can also join in recognition of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling's twenty-third (23rd) year in providing diverse services and support for problem gamblers and their families;

*NOW, THEREFORE, the City of St. Augustine does hereby extend congratulations and support to the Council on Compulsive Gambling in raising awareness of the effects of problem gambling and encourages the observance of March 6-12, 2011 as **Problem Gambling Awareness Week**.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 28th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven and the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.

Mayor Joseph Boles