

## *❧ ❧ PROCLAMATION ❧ ❧*

*WHEREAS, 2011 marks the Twenty Second Anniversary of the Miami-Dade Drug Court, the first Drug Court in the nation, one which sparked a national revolution that changed the face of the American Justice System, growing from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,500 currently operational Drug Courts; and*

*WHEREAS, for the past twenty two years Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across this nation safer; and*

*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, 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, over 27,000 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, substance abuse and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and community supervision personnel, researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others dedicated to Drug Courts and similar types of treatment programs are healing families and communities across the country; and*

*WHEREAS, May 16-20, 2011 marks National Drug Court Commencement Week, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families.*

*WHEREAS, the City Commissioners of the City of St. Augustine wish to recognize the successful work of the practitioners and participants of Drug Court programs to reduce the impact of drug abuse on our community;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida hereby proclaims May, 2011 as "NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH" and urges all citizens to recognize the significant contributions of drug courts, and to congratulate this years drug court graduates.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of St. Augustine to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and the four hundred and forty fifth year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.*