

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department, including the North Port Aquatic Center, is committed to increasing community awareness about the dangers of drowning and providing essential water safety education throughout the City of North Port; and

WHEREAS, Learn to Swim, Float 4 Life and other water safety programs are vitally important to reducing drowning incidents, ensuring that all residents have access to critical water safety skills and instruction; and

WHEREAS, Monda S.W.I.M (Safe Water Instruction Matters), offered through Parks & Recreation in conjunction with Sarasota County Schools and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation provides free swimming lessons for all North Port second graders to build lifesaving skills at an early age; and

WHEREAS, youth scholarships provided through local partners and community supporters help ensure that children and teens have equitable access to swim instruction and water safety education regardless of financial circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross Centennial Program further removes financial barriers and expands access to swim instruction for families; and

WHEREAS, drowning remains the leading cause of death in Florida for children under the age of four, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting that 11 children drown every day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health reported 105 fatal drownings of children under the age of 18 in 2024, the second highest number of drowning deaths since 2006, along with 348 fatal drownings among adults; and

WHEREAS, May is recognized nationwide as National Drowning Prevention Awareness Month by the National Drowning Prevention Association; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port reaffirms its commitment to drowning prevention through comprehensive water safety outreach and education.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

“Drowning Prevention Awareness Month”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and Seal of the City of North Port, Florida, to be affixed this 7th day of May 2026.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

Pete Emrich, Mayor

Barbara Langdon, Vice-Mayor

David Duval, Commissioner



Phil Stokes, Commissioner

Demetrius Petrow, Commissioner

ATTEST

Heather Faust, City Clerk