

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The City of Ocala has recognized March 2018 as Problem Gambling Awareness month to demonstrate its support in addressing problem gambling and the initiative of the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling in bringing awareness to the issues surrounding problem gambling in our community; and

WHEREAS, problem gambling is a serious public health issue which impacts 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, it is estimated that more than 6 million people of every age, race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status suffer from problem gambling and need treatment; and

WHEREAS, the issue of problem gambling is a community issue, as 8-10 people are affected for every one problem gambler and conservative estimated social costs are \$7 Billion annually; and

WHEREAS, educating the public about how problem gambling affects everyone in the community, including youth, older adults, and families, is essential if we are to be proactive about this problem; and


WHEREAS, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling's 2018 *Shine the Light on Problem Gambling-The Hidden Addiction* awareness campaign provides an opportunity for the public, policymakers, educators, businesses, mental health, criminal justice professionals, the gaming industry, and others, to make known the adverse effects of problem gambling, as well as available treatment; and

WHEREAS, any individual, professional, or organization whom is dedicated to assisting those in need can participate in raising awareness and treating problem gambling by promoting the statewide 24-hour Helpline, 888-Admit-It.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2018 as

PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 1st day of March 2018.


Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala

