



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, The City of Ocala has recognized March 2021 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 2021 Problem Gambling Awareness Month campaign provides an opportunity for the public, policymakers, educators, businesses, mental health providers, 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, dedicated to assisting those in need, can participate in raising awareness of problem gambling and available resources by promoting the statewide 24-hour confidential, multilingual 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 2021 in the City of Ocala 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

Kent Guinn, Mayor  
City of Ocala

