

## Councilman Rafael Pineyro's Proclamation Request Whereas Clause

WHEREAS, Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest and most effective ways to protect drivers and passengers on the road. In 2023, 91.9% of Americans consistently used seat belts, recognizing their crucial role in saving lives. In fact, seat belt use in passenger vehicles is estimated to have saved nearly 15,000 lives in 2017 alone.

WHEREAS, In 2020, there were 2,883 accidents in Florida where the victims were not wearing seat belts, resulting in 1,073 deaths.

WHEREAS, It is imperative to raise awareness on seatbelt use because it saves many lives, as-well with non-compliance with seatbelt laws can result in fines and penalties, which further stresses the importance of following safety regulations.

WHEREAS, Seat belts have continued to play a significant role in saving lives on Florida's roads. While specific data for 2023 is not yet available, in 2020, seat belts were responsible for saving thousands of lives nationwide. In Florida, about **41% of crash fatalities** involved individuals who were not wearing a seatbelt, despite the fact that seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury by nearly half in a crash

WHEREAS, education and community engagement are vital in promoting seat belt usage. By implementing public awareness campaigns and educational programs, we can highlight the importance of wearing seat belts not only as a legal requirement but as a critical factor in ensuring safety for everyone on the road.

WHEREAS, Encouraging parents to model safe driving behaviors and discussing the life-saving benefits of seat belts can significantly influence young drivers and passengers. Collaborative efforts between schools, law enforcement, and local organizations can further enhance awareness and compliance, ultimately leading to a reduction in traffic-related fatalities and injuries.