**FLOOD AWARENSS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

*Community Development Director, Wendy Schlesinger, requested Board adoption of a proclamation to establish the week of March 6 through 13, 2023 as Flood Awareness week in Jackson County.*

***WHEREAS***, Jackson County has experienced severe weather in the past in the form of extreme rainfall or tropical system events resulting in flooding in local rivers and lakes, and this flooding has caused damage and flood losses to homes and buildings in all areas whether they are high-risk special flood hazard areas or low to moderate risk flood zones; and

***WHEREAS***, Jackson County Board of County Commissioners is a voluntary participant in the National Flood Insurance Program that provides residents with the opportunity to protect themselves against flood loss through the purchase of flood insurance at reduced insurance premium rates as well as setting higher regulatory standards to reduce the flood risk and potential flood damage to their property; and

***WHEREAS***, the reduction of loss of life and property damage can be achieved when appropriate flood preparedness, control, and mitigation measures are taken before a flood; and

***WHEREAS***, public education and awareness of potential weather hazards and methods of protection are critical to the health, safety and welfare of residents, the Florida Floodplain Managers Association (FFMA), have declared the week of March 6th through 13th 2023 as Flood Awareness Week to promote awareness and increase knowledge of flood risk, the availability of flood insurance, flood protection methods, and how to prepare for emergencies.

***NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE Jackson County Board of County Commissioners***, do hereby proclaim March 6th through 13th 2023 as **FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK IN Jackson County** and further encourage the citizens of Jackson County to increase their knowledge of how to protect themselves and their property from flooding.

***PRESENTED*** this 27th day of February 2023.

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