



# PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS*, it is estimated that 32.5% of Florida citizens will be 60 years of age or older by 2030, an increase of 34% from 2012;

*WHEREAS*, it is estimated that one fourth of people 65 and older will fall each year;

*WHEREAS*, one out of five falls causes a serious injury such as broken bones or a head injury;

*WHEREAS*, according to the Florida Department of Health, falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among people 65 and older in Florida, leading to 2,445 deaths in 2014; 50,730 hospitalizations in 2014; and 158,203 emergency department visits in 2014;

*WHEREAS*, falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries among Florida citizens 65 years of age and older, with falls accounting for 62% of fatal traumatic brain injuries among older adults;

*WHEREAS*, falls can lead to depression, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence;

*WHEREAS*, the average hospitalization charge for an unintentional fall among Florida residents ages 65 and older was \$41,091.19 in 2014;

*WHEREAS*, the financial toll for older adult falls is expected to increase as the population ages and may reach \$101 billion nationally by 2030;

*WHEREAS*, the total emergency medical calls in Pinellas County were 180,737; total fall calls were 26,492; Falls are the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest call for medical emergency service in Pinellas County;

*WHEREAS*, injuries from falls are largely a preventable community health problem;

*WHEREAS*, evidenced-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education;

*WHEREAS*, the Florida Falls Prevention Coalition is working to increase awareness of this issue, promote multidisciplinary strategies to prevent falls, and encourage citizens to take steps to protect those who are at increased risk of falling;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Leslie Waters, Mayor of the City of Seminole, Florida do hereby proclaim September 22, 2018 as

***"FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY"***

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Seminole, Florida to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018.



*Leslie Waters*  
Leslie Waters, Mayor