

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS STATE OF FLORIDA

## **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has deemed the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to be National Consumer Protection Week; and

WHEREAS, National Consumer Protection Week's purpose is to educate the public on issues such as avoiding scams, protecting yourself against identity theft, and reporting fraud for people in your community; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services, housed within the Department of Financial Services, actively investigates alleged acts of insurance and workers' compensation fraud against Floridians; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing fraud epidemic in Florida, I, as CFO, have launched Fraud Free Florida, an anti-fraud initiative and website aimed at better coordinating collective investigative efforts and to protect Florida's consumers from scams; and

WHEREAS, the FTC's four tips to avoid a scam are: don't give out personal or financial information to an unknown request, resist the pressure to act immediately, understand how seammers ask for payment, and stop and talk to someone you trust; and

WHEREAS, fraud reporting is crucial to allow the appropriate authorities to investigate and prevent future fraud crimes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer and State Fire Marshal of the State of Florida does hereby recognize the week of March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as,

## NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK

and urges all Florida consumers to be weary and cautious of potential scams.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the Chief Financial Officer of the State of Florida has hereunto subscribed his name on the 6th day of March 2024.

JIMY PORONIS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER STATE FIRE MARSHAL