



Proclamation

Building Safety Month — May, 2026

Whereas our Jurisdiction is committed to recognizing that our growth and strength depends on the safety and essential role our homes, buildings and infrastructure play, both in everyday life and when disasters strike, and;

Whereas our confidence in the resilience of these buildings that make up our community is achieved through the devotion of vigilant guardians—building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, plumbers and others in the construction industry—who work year-round to ensure the safe construction of buildings, and;

Whereas these guardians are dedicated members of the International Code Council (ICC), a nonprofit that brings together local, state, territorial, tribal and federal officials who are experts in the built environment to create and implement the highest-quality codes and standards to protect us in the buildings where we live, learn, work and play, and;

Whereas these modern building codes and standards include safeguards to protect the public from hazards such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods and earthquakes, and;

Whereas Building Safety Month is sponsored by ICC to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' largely unknown protectors of public safety—our code officials—who assure us of safe, sustainable and affordable buildings that are essential to our prosperity, and;

Whereas “Built to Last” the theme for Building Safety Month 2026, encourages us all to get involved and raise awareness about building safety on a personal, local and global scale, and;

Whereas each year, in observance of Building Safety Month, people all over the world are asked to consider the commitment to improve building safety, resilience and economic investment at home and in the community, and to acknowledge the essential service provided to all of us by local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal building safety and fire prevention departments, in protecting lives and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Mayor of the City of Okeechobee, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as Building Safety Month. Accordingly, I encourage our citizens to join us as we participate in Building Safety Month activities.

Dowling R. Watford, Jr.

Signature