

WHEREAS, Marine Cleanup Initiative, Inc., the Operations Director, the Board of Directors, the Advisory Board and the hundreds of volunteer divers, boat captains, kayaks and paddle boarders have operated for 13 years to remove marine debris such as: monofilament fishing line, casting nets, cargo nets, batteries, anchors, chain, rope, bottles, can and fishing gear from our Indian River Lagoon Estuary; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are accomplished by all volunteers using their own time, their own equipment and risking their own lives to provide this needed public service to protect our most important natural resource; and

WHEREAS, these efforts save thousands of birds, fish, turtles and other aquatic life from certain death through the elimination of all debris, including ghost fishing items such as abandoned traps and nets; and

WHEREAS, Marine Cleanup Initiative, Inc. is involved in all cleanups along the water, in the water and on our spoil islands as well as clearing invasive species such as lionfish from our waters; and

WHEREAS, Marine Cleanup Initiative, Inc. has brought national and international interest to our area through advocacy, volunteerism and national awards for service; all while removing over 425,000 pounds of debris.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim that August 2014 be observed as:

“Marine Debris Removal Month”

and urge all citizens and businesses to participate in activities which will assist in the elimination of hazardous debris accumulating in our waterways through best practices of disposal.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, to be affixed this 4th day of August, 2014.

MAYOR COMMISSIONER