

WHEREAS, the global spread of HIV infection and AIDS necessitates a world wide effort to increase communication, education and action to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) observes December 1 of each year as World AIDS Day, a day to expand and strengthen the world wide effort to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Florida is third in the nation for rates of HIV/AIDS infection. St. Lucie County has made progress in decreasing the number of HIV cases, yet efforts must continue. As of September, 2014, St. Lucie County has 2,849 cases of HIV/AIDS reported and ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the State for HIV infection cases; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of HIV prevention and promote the support and care for people with HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, UNAIDS designated 2014 World AIDS Day theme, *Getting to Zero HIV New Cases, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths*, to facilitate access to HIV services and to fight the persistent misconceptions, fear and stigma surrounding HIV.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby issue this proclamation in honor of:

## *“World AIDS Day”*

and urge all citizens to observe the St. Lucie County World AIDS day theme – HIV is everyone’s business, ACT on it – and participate in all activities and observances designed to decrease HIV rates in our community, speak out against the fear and discrimination surrounding HIV and increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the place of worship, work and play.

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 1st day of December, 2014.

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MAYOR/COMMISSIONER