

WHEREAS, travel to and within the United States provides significant economic benefits for the nation, generating \$2.1 trillion in economic output in 2014, with \$927.9 billion spent directly by domestic and international travelers; and

WHEREAS, travel is among the largest private-sector employers in the United States, supporting 15 million jobs in 2014, including 8 million directly in the travel industry and 7 million in other industries;

WHEREAS, travelers' spending directly generated tax revenues of \$141.5 billion for federal, state and local governments, funds used to support essential services and programs; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the State of Florida's number one industry, responsible for welcoming 97.3 million visitors in 2014 who spent \$82 billion, generating 23 percent of the state's sales tax revenue and employing more than 1.1 million Floridians; and

WHEREAS, St. Lucie County's tourism experienced a 16 percent increase in bed tax revenue in 2014 compared to the previous year, setting a 10-year high, bringing in more than \$3 million in bed tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the travel industry supports the interests of the City of Fort Pierce, through its efforts with Fort Pierce Authentic Tours and other tourism promotion programs contributing to our employment, economic prosperity, international trade and relations, peace, understanding and goodwill; and

WHEREAS, travel contributes to personal growth, health, professional advancement, education, cultural understanding and the enhancement of America's image around the world;

WHEREAS, travel can serve as a catalyst to help move the national and local economy forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of May 2 - 10, 2015, as:

## “Travel and Tourism Week”

in the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County and urge all to join in this special observance with appropriate events, commemorations and festivals.

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 May, 2015.

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MAYOR COMMISSIONER