

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education and National Institute of Literacy conclude that thirty three million American adults can't read; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has determined there is a link between illiteracy and crime, finding that 89% of juveniles in the court system are functionally illiterate and that 70% of inmates in the federal prison system can't read above a fourth grade level; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Educational Statistics estimates that 24% of St. Lucie County adults function at the lowest literacy level; and

WHEREAS, those adults who lack basic literacy skills are negatively impacted in their daily lives, in their ability to earn a living, and in their ability to participate as citizens in their community; and

WHEREAS, Learn to Read of St. Lucie county, since its founding in 1981, has freed hundreds from the prison of illiteracy and the inability to read and speak English; and

WHEREAS, the long list of yearners to be learners far exceeds the list of heroic and dedicated Learn to Read volunteer tutors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim September, 2015 as:

## *Adult Literacy Month*

In the City of Fort Pierce and urge citizens to volunteer as literacy tutors to help those unable to read find greater success in their lives.

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 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

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MAYOR COMMISSIONER