

WHEREAS, the citizens place high value on local control over community services and therefore have chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit natural gas utility and, as consumers and owners of our natural gas utility, have a direct say in utility operations and policies; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority provides homes, businesses, farms, social service, and local government agencies with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective natural gas employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at not-for-profit rates; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority is a valuable community asset that contributes substantially to the well-being of local citizens through energy efficiency, customer service, environmental protection, economic development, and safety awareness; and

WHEREAS, the natural gas utility industry is changing and will continue to change over the next few years, with the goal of allowing individual consumers to choose their power supplier while continuing service from their current natural gas distributor; and

WHEREAS, this concept of "customer choice" in generation is a new one that will have a broad impact on and affect all parts of the natural gas utility industry, including the consumer-utility relationship; and

WHEREAS, this community's natural gas system, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority 's first and only purpose is to work in partnership with its customer-owners to furnish an essential public service and the best customer service to community citizens at lower-cost rates; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority will continue to work to ensure that consumers benefit from any changes in the natural gas utility industry, just as it has since 1961, the year when the utility was created to serve all the citizens of Fort Pierce, FL.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of October 4-10, 2015, as:

Public Natural Gas Week

in the City of Fort in order to honor Fort Pierce Utilities Authority for its contributions to the community and ask that our community joins hands with other public natural gas systems in the United States that ensure cost-cutting competition for natural gas customers through local, community ownership.

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 5th day of October, 2015.

MAYOR COMMISSIONER