

# CITY OF FORT PIERCE

Florida



## Office of the Mayor and City Commission

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April 5, 2016

Florida League of Cities  
Ms. Sharon G. Berrian  
P.O. Box 1757  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1757

Attention: Florida Municipal Achievement Awards, Environmental Stewardship Award

Dear Judges:

The City of Fort Pierce is pleased and proud to submit this application for the Florida League of Cities Environmental Stewardship Award for 2016 and wholly supports and recommends this project for consideration.

Fort Pierce is located on Florida's Atlantic Coast; the city marina is located on the Indian River Lagoon, the most biodiverse estuary in the United States. When the 2004 Hurricanes of Frances and Jeanne destroyed our city marina, the city embarked on restoring the marina. In addition to restoration, the city wanted to protect the marina and the waterfront from future storm damage. In the process of planning this project with its federal and state partners, the city saw an opportunity to enhance the natural habitats of the diverse ecosystems in the Indian River Lagoon. In 2013, the marina and waterfront protection systems, and the natural habitat enhancements were complete. By 2015, the marina replaced the destroyed docks and added additional docks. Additional amenities have been or are in the process of being added: a web cam to view real time conditions, WI-FI access for boaters and dinghy docks for transient boaters to visit the historic Downtown Fort Pierce shops, entertainment and festivals.

The island ecosystem has proven to be exactly what was anticipated and more. The islands are now fish and oyster hatcheries and the island vegetation attracts birds. Sea grass and other vegetation are creating a lush habitat for all types of marine life. As intended, the islands, because of their specific construction, are cleaning the waters of the Indian River Lagoon. Recently, the city, along with partner agencies, built the

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Melody Lane Fishing Pier south of the island protection system for anglers to take advantage of the increased fish stock.

The Indian River Lagoon is a precious resource that, of late, has been compromised by the influx of fresh water, water runoff from canals and septic seepage. Our city marina restoration and protection project is not only protecting our waterfront but also the critical natural balance in the Indian River Lagoon.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson  
Mayor