

WHEREAS, autism is not a single disorder that affects individuals the same way, but a spectrum of different disorders; and

WHEREAS, autism disorders are a complex developmental disabilities that affects more than one out of every 88 children; and

WHEREAS, no single cause of autism has been found; and

WHEREAS, the cost to communities to educate a child with autism is estimated to be at least three times that of educating a child without autism; and

WHEREAS, autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder at a rate of 1,148% a year; and

WHEREAS, the cost of lifelong care and education can be reduced by as much as two-thirds with early diagnosis and intervention; and

WHEREAS, Autism Awareness Month is a special opportunity for everyone to educate themselves and the public about autism and various issues within the autism community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2016, as:

*“Autism Awareness Month”*

and commend the employees of the St. Lucie County Fire District for their efforts on behalf of Autism Awareness Month.

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 18th day April, 2016.

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MAYOR/COMMISSIONER