

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, 2016 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 6th day of September, 2016.

MAYOR COMMISSIONER