

WHEREAS, the citizens of Fort Pierce City stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, 21st Century Community Learning Centers has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 20, 2016, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce, Florida is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2016, as:

## *Lights on Afterschool Day*

in the City of Fort Pierce and we enthusiastically support Lights on Afterschool and commit to engaging in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

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 3rd day of October, 2016.

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MAYOR COMMISSIONER