

WHEREAS, Gopher Tortoise Day will be observed annually in the City of Fort Pierce on April 10; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise has been living on the earth for 500,000 to 2 million years; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Florida and in parts of the U.S., the Gopher Tortoise is listed as threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise is considered a keystone species and its' habitat needs protection; and

WHEREAS, the Gopher Tortoise's burrow protects more than 350 other commensal species, some of which are also listed as Threatened; and

WHEREAS, having Gopher Tortoises and other species in our area helps to sustain the area's ecology and provide man with a source of joy and appreciation for nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2017, as:

GOPHER TORTOISE DAY

in the City of Fort Pierce and urge all citizens to protect this species by doing and learning more about them.

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 of April, 2017.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER