

WHEREAS, New Horizons Mental Health Primary care and Substance Abuse and Suncoast Mental Health Center seek to increase awareness and encourage continued discussion and action regarding mental health matters such as suicide recognizing that greater awareness is critical; and

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and mental health providers across the nation are reaching out to communities to engage in open disclosure, providing vital information on how to detect the signs of suicide and what to do when they are apparent; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death in Florida for people ages 10 to 34, and the leading cause of violent death in the U.S. for adults ages 35 to 65; and

WHEREAS, on the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee, 66 people have died by suicide so far in 2017, with 541 people dying by suicide in the previous five years, and these staggering numbers don't adequately represent the families that have been torn apart by suicide, nor the trauma resulting from the sudden and violent loss of a loved one that will impact children and adults for years to come; and

WHEREAS, there is hope, however, because suicide is 100 percent preventable, through education, outreach and treatment. It all begins with a conversation; one human helping another.

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

“Suicide Prevention 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 of September, 2017.

MAYOR COMMISSIONER