

WHEREAS, Charles and Hassie Russ, owners and operators of Granny’s Kitchen and Banquet Hall at 901 Avenue D, began their enterprises with the gleam of a dream followed with a lot of hope and promise; and

WHEREAS, at one time, Mr. and Mrs. Russ owned most of the block of 9th Street to Dundas Court to Avenue D which included the following businesses: Russ Grocery #2, opening in 1965 on Avenue D, Russ Department Store, opening in 1968 , Snow White Laundromat, opening in 1968 and Russ’s Game Room and Beauty Salon; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Russ began as a waitress at Indian Hills Golf and Country Club where she learned hospitality and restaurant management; she always had a love of cooking and wanted to share her favorite Southern dishes with friends, neighbors and the business community with a dream of one day owning her own restaurant; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Hassie Russ opened Granny’s Kitchen, named after her mother, Helen Morris, who was a boardinghouse cook in Brunswick, Georgia. Most of the recipes served at Granny’s Kitchen originated from her mother and her Aunt Hassie Elliott; and

WHEREAS, for four years, Ms. Russ operated the restaurant by herself before being joined by her husband Charles in 1979 after he closed the grocery store. Granny’s Kitchen is a family affair with Charles cooking main meals, Hassie preparing desserts and management of the day-to-day operations, their daughter manages the kitchen with her father; one son provides technical support and operations management and their other daughter manages the organization’s assets, infrastructure, licensing and certifications; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Russ’s partnered with the City of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency to renovate and expand the facility to include a new 75-seat banquet hall; after an 18-month and \$329,000 renovation inside and out, more than 100 people from around the community came to celebrate their grand re-opening; and

WHEREAS, Granny’s Kitchen was featured in the *New York Times Magazine* on April 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the commitment to economic development efforts by the Russ’s has provided an untold number of jobs, homes and the economic stability for numerous families in the community; and

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WHEREAS, Charles and Hassie Russ have been married for 60 years; they are graduates of Lincoln Park Academy and have four children and ten grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby issue this proclamation in honor of:

Charles and Hassie Russ

in appreciation and recognition of 50 plus years of continuous business operations on the Avenue D corridor and their ongoing commitment to the City of Fort Pierce.

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 5th day of February, 2018.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER