

WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of millions of crimes each year, affecting individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, years of investment in crime victims’ rights and services have developed a system of victim response that can help victims recover from crime; and

WHEREAS, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to supporting thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities; and

WHEREAS, dedicated victim service providers are working every day to meet the needs of crime victims, yet there are still too many victims without meaningful access to rights and services; and

WHEREAS, many victims face barriers—such as isolation, distrust of authorities, language limitations, lack of transportation, or cultural barriers—that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime; and

WHEREAS, we must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to the resources that can help them recover; and

WHEREAS, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime—especially those who are challenging to reach or serve—are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 8 - 14, 2018, as:

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

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 2nd day of April, 2018.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER