

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers provide access to healthful, locally, and regionally produced foods through farmers markets, are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for diverse agricultural products, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide, and;

WHEREAS, the Downtown Farmers Market of Fort Pierce encourages the next generation of farmers and ranchers, generates farm income; stimulates local agriculture, business development and job creation and builds community connections through rural and urban linkages; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Farmers Market of Fort Pierce is a Saturday morning tradition attracting thousands of patrons to historic Downtown Fort Pierce for 21 years, and has consistently been ranked in the top three markets in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Farmers Market of Fort Pierce encourages the arts, culture and philanthropy in Fort Pierce by offering musical entertainment, historic ceremonies and showcasing non-profits, such as the Empty Bowls project.

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets' contributions to the City of Fort Pierce life, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida do hereby proclaim the week of August 5-11, 2018, as

Farmers Market Week

in conjunction with the observance of National Farmers Market Week. I call upon the City of Fort Pierce citizens to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observance and activities.

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 16th day of July, 2018.

MAYOR/ COMMISSIONER