



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COMMISSION *Florida*

February 4, 2019

Board of County Commissioners
Saint Lucie County
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Dear Commissioners:

In 2016, the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, in an effort to ensure the health and safety of our animal "residents", amended our Animal Control Ordinance to ban the practice of tethering dogs by any means including the use of chains, ropes, cables or trolley systems.

Following the amendment, Animal Control Officers commenced a yearlong education period, wherein informational material was distributed and meetings were held with residents allowing City staff to explain the new anti-tethering restrictions. In response to citizen concerns, an additional amendment was adopted in 2017 that required "A responsible person must be outside and within view of the animal at all times while tethered." Since that time, we have seen much more success in the enforcement of our ordinance and many dogs that were once tied up are now being maintained in a far more humane manner.

The City of Fort Pierce supports any and all efforts by the St. Lucie County Commission to adopt a similar ordinance in order to establish another strong collaborative effort between our agencies to eradicate the cruelty inflicted upon dogs that are tethered. Additionally, if the two jurisdictions provided the same or similar restrictions, enforcement is more easily achieved, as we would convey a unified message and all our residents would be held to the same standard.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson
Mayor

LH:nm