

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is a widespread public health problem and impacts every person in Fort Pierce; every day, too many women, men, and children across Florida suffer the pain and trauma of sexual assault in all of its forms and in all of our St. Lucie County communities; and

WHEREAS, these crimes occur far too frequently, go unreported far too often, and leave long lasting physical and emotional scars; and during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, expanding support & understanding for survivors, and strengthening our response; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence affects individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances; and as a community, we share the responsibility for protecting each other from sexual assault, supporting survivors when it does occur, and bringing perpetrators to justice; and

WHEREAS, at every level we must work to provide necessary resources to survivors of every circumstance, without judgement and with dignity, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce can come together to increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, hold offenders accountable, support survivors, and heal lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as:

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

We, the undersigned, proclaim that now is the time to take action as leaders in our community to create safe environments for all Fort Pierce citizens, including our youth and our educational institutions. We must work together to educate members of our community about sexual violence prevention, support survivors, and speak out against harmful attitudes and actions. We join advocates and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence. We publicly proclaim April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and recognize that each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

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 1st day of April, 2019.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER