

**WHEREAS,** September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which directs the public’s attention to this public health epidemic that is destroying lives, families and even whole communities; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. among individuals age 10 to 34 years old; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide is the fourth leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 35 and 54; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide is the tenth leading cause of death overall in the U.S., claiming the lives of over 47,000 people; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide is an epidemic that may co-occur with depression; and depression is being linked in more than 50 percent of suicides; and

**WHEREAS,** on average, there are 129 suicides a day or 1 every 11.11 minutes. In St. Lucie County, there were 55 suicides in 2018; and

**WHEREAS,** suicide is the only death that is 100% preventable. By offering the public education, data, support, and services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, we as a community have taken a step toward preventing another suicide by our residents; and therefore, we as a community are honored to be part of the healing process and we support services addressing mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction.

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

***“Suicide Prevention Awareness Month”***

in the City of Fort Pierce and urge our residents to learn how they may help because Suicide Prevention is everyone’s business.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2019.

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**MAYOR/COMMISSIONER**