

WHEREAS, Black History Month is observed annually across the United States in February; it serves as a celebration of African-American achievements as well as a time to recognize the crucial role African-Americans have played in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of African-Americans have enhanced the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of America today; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) sponsored a national Negro History Week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass; by the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, the weeklong celebration evolved into a monthlong one, and in 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce has a rich African-American history, with Zora Neale Hurston and the Highwaymen among our most famous; we continue to be, home to African-American leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, athletes, artists, educators and more who have shaped our country and made this area a vibrant place to live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, we are immensely proud of that history and our diversity as well as thankful for the countless contributions of African-Americans in Fort Pierce and throughout this nation.

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

Black History Month

and encourage all our citizens to celebrate this month and continue our efforts to build a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

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 February, 2021.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER