

WHEREAS, the mental health of every citizen, family, business owner and resident of the City of Fort Pierce is a critical factor in its emotional and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, 44 million American adults, roughly 18%, are living with a mental health illness; 13% of American youth, aged 12 – 17, are living with major depression; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, COVID-19 depression, anxiety and substance abuse doubled from the previous year's finding of one in five adults to two in five adults who are dealing with mental health issues, roughly translating from 20% of Americans to 40% of Americans needing mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) predicts that the psychiatric impact of a disaster will hit a community approximately 18 months after the disaster; and

WHEREAS, stigma remains the primary obstacle to getting help; and

WHEREAS, as community leaders, we must prepare for an increase in demand on services through education, outreach and ever greater access to care to ensure our community's overall health. It is the duty of each and every one of us to provide continued consistent access to resources to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce strive to be a community who supports mental wellness, including greater access to treatment, increasing educational tools and resources for our citizens, and continually supporting those citizens with mental health opportunities.

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

Mental Health Awareness Month

in the City of Fort Pierce.

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 3rd day of May 2021.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER