

WHEREAS, Treasure Coast farmers and ranchers provide citizens with access to healthful, locally, and regionally produced foods through farmers markets, which are expanding and evolving to accommodate the demand for a diverse array of agricultural products, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets and other agricultural direct marketing outlets provide infrastructure to assist in the distribution of farm and value-added products, thereby contributing approximately \$9 billion each year to the U.S. economy, and

WHEREAS, farmers markets serve as significant outlets by which small-to-medium, new and beginning, and veteran agricultural producers market agricultural products, generating revenue that supports the sustainability of family farms and the revitalization of rural communities nationwide, and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce recognizes the importance of expanding agricultural marketing opportunities that assist and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers; generate farm income to help stimulate business development and job creation; build community connections through rural and urban linkages; and more;

WHEREAS, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market has been offering locally-grown fresh produce, fruits, seafood, beef, poultry and many other items that are products of local farmers, ranchers and others since 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market, a 501 c 3 not for profit organization, has been a venue for local musical artists, and locally prepared food, at Marina Square, every Saturday, year-round, rain or shine; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market relocated to Lawnwood Stadium parking lot and converted to a drive through Market, in order to continue to provided fresh products to the citizens of the Treasure Coast area during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Fort Pierce Farmers Market is a Saturday Morning tradition in Fort Pierce and annually ranks as one of the best farmers markets in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, to further awareness of farmers markets' contributions to the Treasure Coast, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce do hereby proclaim the week of August 1-7, 2021, as

Fort Pierce Farmers Market Week

in conjunction with the observance of National Farmers Market Week. I call upon Fort Pierce citizens to celebrate farmers markets with appropriate observance and activities.

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 2nd day of August 2021.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER