

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which directs the community's attention to this public health epidemic destroying lives, whole families and sometimes entire communities; and

WHEREAS, suicide rates on the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee were increasing in the first half of 2021 according to our Medical Examiner's Office; and,

WHEREAS, there were nearly two and a half times as many suicides (47,511) in the United States as there were homicides (19,141); and

WHEREAS, for every completed suicide in 2019, there were 29.05 attempts at suicide; and

WHEREAS, as the second leading cause of death for ages 10–34 and the fourth leading cause for ages 35–54, suicide is a major contributor to premature mortality; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only type of death that is 100% preventable; and by offering the public education, data, support, and services we as a community have taken a step toward preventing another suicide by our residents; and

WHEREAS, we are honored to be part of the healing process, raising awareness for and support of those affected by suicide by offering supporting services addressing mental health illnesses and drug and alcohol addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of September 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 7th day of September 2021.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER