

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month is an inclusive effort to recognize and raise awareness of the unique health needs, challenges, and disparities facing Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and all communities of color, and to encourage action through health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS, the environments in which people live, work, learn, and play have a tremendous impact on their health; and inequities in health begin before birth and are perpetuated by social and economic factors such as safe and affordable housing, transportation, and neighborhoods, as well as access to affordable and quality healthy food, health insurance, education and health care, livable wage employment, and environments free from bias and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, communities of color make up 26.4% of St. Lucie County's total population, and significant disparities exist that result in lower life expectancies and reduced quality of life and without a focused effort to eliminate health disparities and inequities, the burden of poor health on people who are marginalized will multiply and the associated costs will be staggering for everyone; and

WHEREAS, incorporating health considerations into decision-making across all sectors and policy areas and implementing policies, practices, surveillance, and research that include a focus on achieving health equity is the most effective and least costly way of changing the systems and norms that contribute to health inequities; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Statute (FS 381.75) established the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity to increase the policies, programs and practices that support health equity in Florida and St. Lucie residents and local leaders have identified in the local health improvement plan the need for a unified community approach to eliminate health disparities; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored these underlying health and social inequities, with national data demonstrating that racial minority groups are at an increased risk of greater economic consequences, more severe illness, and death from COVID-19, and in accordance with this year's National Minority Month theme, "#Give Your Community A Boost" the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie seeks empower the community to get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines.

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

National Minority Health Month

in the City of Fort Pierce, in support of the Florida Department of health in Fort Pierce's effort to help eliminate health disparities, accelerate health equity, and make our citizens stronger and healthier.

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 4th day of April 2022.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER