



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION



*WHEREAS,* on the second Saturday of May each year, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food items for donations to local food pantries as part of the nation's largest one-day food drive.

*WHEREAS,* a common misconception is that only homeless people need assistance with having enough to eat. In reality, a large portion of local seniors on fixed incomes and people with jobs that don't pay enough to cover basic needs are food-insecure.

*WHEREAS,* up to 30 percent of Fort Pierce families are living in poverty, with more struggling to pay for basic needs. Visits to local food banks have risen considerably during our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

*WHEREAS,* an estimated 12 percent of American households in the United States may experience food insecurity in any given year. After recognizing the need to address this critical issue members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) created the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

*WHEREAS,* since the pilot drive was held in 1991, the NALC Stamp Out Hunger has generated approximately 1.67 billion pounds of donated food and distributed the donations to more than 10,000 cities and towns in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico the Virgin Islands and Guam.

*WHEREAS,* we recognize all local St. Lucie County letter carriers for their commitment to their communities. We acknowledge the noteworthy milestone of 30 years that the National Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive celebrates in 2022.

*WHEREAS,* together, we can all help to feed our hungry. We encourage the citizens of our county to support the 2022 drive by placing non-perishable food items in or near their mailboxes on Food Drive Day. While delivering the mail, letter carriers will pick up the food items. Mustard Seed Ministries, the Salvation Army, and other non-profit organizations will warehouse and distribute the food to individuals and families in need throughout St. Lucie County.

*NOW, THEREFORE,* I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 14, 2022

*Letter Carriers Food Drive Day*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2022.

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MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

