

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 2022 according to our Medical Examiner's Office with 26 suicide deaths in St. Lucie County in quarter one of 2022; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States with an average 130 suicides each day; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020, there were an estimated 1.20 million suicide attempts*; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020, the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population of Suicide Deaths (All) in St. Lucie County was 11.2 compared to Florida at 13.1; and,

WHEREAS, in St. Lucie County there were 64 suicide deaths in 2021, a 23.90 percent year over year increase from 2020, and;

WHEREAS, suicide is the only type of death that is 100% preventable; and by offering public education, data, support, and services we as a community have taken a step toward preventing another suicide by our residents - those resilient people with the capacity to recover, rebound, and heal;

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 6th day of September 2022.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER