



# CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

## PROCLAMATION



**WHEREAS,** on March 21, 1923, the city of Fort Pierce inaugurated a form of government wherein authority to make policy rested with a three-person elected commission, one of whom was mayor, with the city administration vested in a salaried city manager; and

**WHEREAS,** the office of City Marshal ceased to be chosen by an election in which all qualified voters participated and it became the sole responsibility of the City Manager to appoint a Chief of Police; and

**WHEREAS,** the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a time of radical changes in the national and local expectations of the duties and the processes of those who dispensed law and order; and

**WHEREAS,** the challenge of enforcing an unpopular law, the Volstead Act (Prohibition); and the onset of the automobile age creating the challenge of traffic control, driver behavior, and parking, all required new strategies and organization for leadership and training for officers of the law; and

**WHEREAS,** Fort Pierce wishes to honor the Fort Pierce Police Department and all who laid the groundwork of a professional law enforcement department, including dealing with rumrunners and roads that went from horse and buggy transport to streets crowded with Tin Lizzies; and

**WHEREAS,** keeping the peace and protecting the citizenry in the Roaring Twenties inaugurated many practices which we take for granted today: blue uniforms in 1924; creation of desk sergeants and complaint forms in 1926; white stop signs stenciled on the pavement at intersections of avenues Delaware, Orange, and A at 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>; and a communication system consisting of five telephones on strategic corners to be used by patrolmen and citizens to report anything amiss in 1927; and

**WHEREAS,** Fort Pierce wishes to honor the police force who served the city during the Great Depression when the economy caused deprivation; through World War II when our police force cooperated with the military police and thousands of sailors came to the Amphibious Training Base at Fort Pierce; through the 50s, 60s and on to the turn of the century and beyond when African Americans and women were welcomed to the force; and

**WHEREAS,** Fort Pierce wishes to especially honor the highly professional police department of today for living up to its motto “In Honor We Serve:” fighting and preventing crime; making a priority of community outreach; caring for victims; embracing diversity, providing outstanding leadership for civilian personnel and sworn officers by Chief Diane Hobley-Burney, and Deputy Chiefs Kenny Norris and Robert Ridle.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Linda Hudson, by virtue of the authority vested in me as **Mayor** of the City of Fort Pierce do hereby proclaim March 21<sup>st</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup> as

### **City of Fort Pierce Police Department 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

in the City of Fort Pierce and encourage our citizens to Back the Blue By participating in the events marking the Centennial.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

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**MAYOR/COMMISSIONER**





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