



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and, in some cases, death; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 1.5 million Americans and 5 million Worldwide, suffer from the devastating effects of this cruel and mysterious disease, including over 100,000 Floridians; and

**WHEREAS,** lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in the understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS,** while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains yet unexplained; and

**WHEREAS,** lupus organizations call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professional, patients and the public, and recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

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

***Lupus Awareness Month***

in the City of Fort Pierce and encourage citizens to observe this month by education themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and the Lupus Foundation of America in supporting programs of Research, Education, Advocacy, and community service.

**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 1st day of May 2023.

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**MAYOR/COMMISSIONER**

