



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** HUWE1 is a gene located on the X chromosome. It holds the chemical instructions (DNA) to create a protein called E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase. This protein is present in all cells in the human body meaning that any variations or mutations in the HUWE1 gene can have significant effects throughout the body; and

**WHEREAS,** understanding of the role of the HUWE1 gene is still developing, research indicates it has a role in controlling the release of neurotransmitters and in the formation of neurons in the developing brain. It has also been associated with intellectual disability as well as a range of other conditions; and

**WHEREAS,** the plan is to raise awareness about HUWE1 through personal stories, i.e. River's Story. River is a joyful little boy, born at 38 weeks in 2019 in Stillwater Oklahoma. He was a healthy newborn and the only concern at the time was failing his hearing tests. At around 3 months old, he was admitted to the hospital for weight loss and feeding difficulties. While there, he was diagnosed with failure to thrive, bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, and global developmental delays. In May 2020, genetic test results revealed that River has the HUWE1 gene mutation. River relies on a G-tube for nutrition and wears a cochlear implant which he received in 2021. He is currently working and walking and holding a cup independently; and

**WHEREAS,** as part of the HUWE1 awareness campaign, River's family organized a walk/run on December 2023. The event began and ended at the Manatee Observation and Education Center in the heart of Fort Pierce, Florida, and incorporated the Peter C. Cobb Memorial Bridge; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Fort Pierce promotes and supports non-profit efforts to contribute to the health and wellness of our citizens and encourages its residents and visitors to continue the awareness campaign for HUWE1.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim that February be observed as:

***HUWE1 Awareness Month***

And ask all the citizens of the City of Fort Pierce to support the cause of raising awareness of the HUWE1 genetic disease with the goal that progressive research will discover treatment options and a possible cure.

**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 February 2024.

---

**MAYOR/COMMISSIONER**





CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA



# PROCLAMATION

