



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and
- WHEREAS,** crime victims’ rights acts passed here in Florida and the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and
- WHEREAS,** victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and
- WHEREAS,** the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims’ voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; and
- WHEREAS,** including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and
- WHEREAS,** engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs; and
- WHEREAS,** survivors’ lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from access services or pursuing justice; and
- WHEREAS,** National Crime Victims’ Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the week of April 23-29, 2023, as

***Crime Victims’ Rights Week***

reaffirming the City of Fort Pierces’ commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

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**MAYOR/COMMISSIONER**

