

WHEREAS, mental health is key to overall wellness, as mental health influences decision making, behavior and consequently physical health; and

WHEREAS, over half of adults living with mental health illnesses do not seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of youth in the United States live with depression, and in fact about 15.51% of young people ages 12 – 17 have experienced major depression; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, more than 11% of children and adults continue to lack adequate medical insurance coverage for essential mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Florida is ranked 46th out of 50 states with access to mental health care;

WHEREAS, social stigma, financial barriers and limited awareness are the primary obstacles to getting help; and

WHEREAS, as community leaders, we must prepare for an increase in demand on services through education, outreach, and ever greater access to care to ensure our community's overall health; it is the duty of each and every one of us to provide continued and consistent access to resources to mental health care; and

WHEREAS, we the City Commission of Fort Pierce, Florida strive to be a community who supports mental wellness, including greater access to treatment, increasing educational tools and resources for our citizens, and continually supporting those citizens with mental health opportunities.

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

Mental Health Awareness Month

in the City of Fort Pierce and encourage our citizens to raise mental health awareness through appropriate programs and activities, and commit our communities to innovative prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

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.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER