



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which directs the community's attention to this public health epidemic destroying lives, whole families, and sometimes entire communities; and

WHEREAS, suicide rates on the Treasure Coast and in Okeechobee have increased in recent years according to our Medical Examiner's Office with 146 suicide deaths in 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to Florida Health Charts, in 2021 the age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population of suicide deaths in St. Lucie County was 16.4 compared to Florida at 13.8; and,

WHEREAS, the ensuing health, economic, and housing crisis has more recently taken its toll on mental health with increases in suicidal ideation and deaths, substance abuse, household violence, food insecurity, and more; and

WHEREAS, there is a call for a public health response to increase suicide intervention and prevention efforts with increased community-level efforts and strategies; and

WHEREAS, suicide is preventable; and by offering public education, data, support, and services, we as a community have taken a step toward preventing another suicide by our residents - those resilient people with the capacity to recover, rebound, and heal.

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

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

in the City of Fort Pierce and urge our residents to be aware of local resources such as Suncoast Mental Health Center for mental health services and support for those in need.

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 18th day of September 2023.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

