



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS,** WE LEAP INC. is a violence awareness and prevention and awareness education organization located in St. Lucie County that has been leading the charge on teen dating violence awareness for almost a decade in Fort Pierce; and

**WHEREAS,** dating violence is a reality for many youths, and an issue that many parents are unaware of; and

**WHEREAS,** 1 in 3 young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with 1 in 5 in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened, or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk even when a relationship was never physically abusive; and

**WHEREAS,** Young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect and learn to identify early warning signs of an abusive relationship; and

**WHEREAS,** Elimination of dating violence must be achieved through the cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2025 as:

***Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month***

in the City of Fort Pierce supports and empowers young people to develop healthy relationships throughout their lives and to engage in activities that prevent and respond to teen dating violence.

**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 3rd day of February 2025.

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MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

