



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Gullah/Geechee people are descendants of captive Africans from several ethnicities in Central and West Africa brought to the coastal areas of Florida; and

WHEREAS, from their expertise in military defense agriculture, horticulture, silver culture, irrigation, and animal husbandry to include their unique Creole language and delicious southern cuisine to the cultural creativity in arts, crafts, and music, the Gullah/Geechee people have had a positive influence on our lives; and

WHEREAS, the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor extends from Pender County, North Carolina-St. Johns County; and

WHEREAS, Governors from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in 2014 designated October to increase awareness and understanding of Gullah/Geechee culture, facilitating a deeper appreciation for the significant contributions in Florida and the nation; and

WHEREAS, freedom seekers such as Haitians and Gullah Geechee, largely descendants of enslaved Africans and a number of freemen from Saint-Dominquez, now known as Haiti; fought alongside the American Revolutionaries in Pensacola, Florida, and the Siege of Savannah. They went on to serve in St. Augustine during the 1st Spanish period creating their freedom and independence; and

WHEREAS, the two emancipated groups influenced the Haitian Revolution with their experience fighting in the American war, linking the African descendants; and

WHEREAS, Gullah Geechee descendants settled the first black settlement in North America known as Gracia Real de Santa Mose or Fort Mose in 1738, they would go on to defeat the British in 1740 ; and

WHEREAS, Zora Neal Hurston, resident of Fort Pierce, was the first to recognize Fort Mose in 1927 when she was sent to St Augustine to research it and the African descendants that earned their freedom in Spanish Florida.

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

Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Month

in the City of Fort Pierce and encourage all to learn more about the history, culture, and traditions of the Gullah/Geechee people.

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 20st day of October 2025.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

