



CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is observed across the United States to honor victims and survivors of crime, raise awareness of victims' rights and services, and recognize the professionals, advocates, and volunteers who work to ensure victims are treated with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme, "Listen. Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities," calls upon communities and criminal justice professionals to listen to survivors, take meaningful action to support their recovery, and advocate for justice and safety for all victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, victims of crime often face emotional, physical, and financial hardships, and it is essential that communities work collectively to ensure victims are supported, empowered, and provided with resources necessary to heal and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the rights of crime victims in the State of Florida are protected under the Florida Constitution, commonly known as Marsy's Law, and under Florida Statutes §960.001, guaranteeing victims the right to due process, fairness, dignity, respect, and the right to be informed, present, and heard throughout the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Pierce Police Department Victim Assistance Unit (VAU) serves as a vital resource for victims and their families by providing crisis intervention, advocacy, emotional support, and referrals to essential services, while working closely with community partners to help victims navigate the criminal justice system and access services such as counseling, victim compensation, safety planning, and community-based assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce recognizes and commends the Fort Pierce Police Department Victim Assistance Unit for its unwavering commitment to supporting victims of crime, strengthening community partnerships, and ensuring that victims' voices are heard and their rights protected.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Linda Hudson, Mayor of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 19-25, 2026 as:

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

in the City of Fort Pierce and honors the Fort Pierce Police Department Victim Assistance Unit for their steadfast dedication to serving victims of crime and strengthening the safety, dignity, and well-being of our community. **AND BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED** that the City of Fort Pierce reaffirms its commitment to fostering a victim-centered response within the criminal justice system and encourages all citizens, community members, and organizations to support victims of crime, advocate for their rights, and work together to build a safer and more compassionate community.

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 6th day of April 2026.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

