



THE SUNRISE CITY
FORT PIERCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND CITY COMMISSION

Florida

July 20, 2026

Tom Cochran Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors

Re: Letter of Support-Growing Together Fort Pierce: Community Wellness Garden & Learning Initiative

Dear Mr. Cochran:

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for our application to the Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant Awards for our proposed initiative, Growing Together Fort Pierce: Community Wellness Garden & Learning Initiative.

As Mayor, I have the privilege of meeting residents from every neighborhood in our community. Time and again, I hear the same aspirations-families want access to healthier foods, children need safe places to learn and grow, and neighbors are looking for opportunities to reconnect and strengthen their communities. These conversations reinforce the importance of investing in projects that not only improve physical spaces but also improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of our residents.

Growing Together Fort Pierce builds upon an existing community garden with tremendous potential to become a vibrant community asset. Through strategic improvements, expanded programming, and strengthened partnerships, this initiative will transform the garden into a welcoming destination where residents of all ages can grow fresh produce, learn healthy living practices, participate in environmental stewardship activities, and build lasting community connections.

This initiative represents much more than the enhancement of a garden. It is an investment in healthier neighborhoods, youth engagement, nutrition education, volunteerism, and environmental sustainability. By creating opportunities for residents to learn, volunteer, and grow together, we will strengthen community relationships while increasing access to healthy foods and promoting lifelong healthy habits.

The City of Fort Pierce has long recognized that meaningful change happens through collaboration. This initiative will bring together City departments, community organizations, educational institutions, volunteers, and residents to create a sustainable resource that reflects our shared commitment to improving the quality of life for everyone in our community. We are committed to the success of Growing Together Fort Pierce and will actively champion this initiative throughout its implementation.

We believe Growing Together Fort Pierce reflects the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and community investment that the Healthy and Sustainable Communities Grant Awards seeks to recognize. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our application and appreciate the opportunity to showcase how Fort Pierce is cultivating healthier neighborhoods through community partnership and sustainable investment.

Sincerely,



Linda Hudson
Mayor

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