# PROCLAMATION
# CLIMATE ACTION IN THE CITY OF STUART

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stuart encompasses more than 8 linear miles of shoreline along the St. Lucie River, and the St. Lucie River estuary forms an important part of the Indian River Lagoon System, the most bio-diverse marine ecosystem in all of North America; and

**WHEREAS,** a clean and healthy St. Lucie River provides recreation, tourism, and a marine industry which are significant historic, public, and economic importance to the City of Stuart's quality of life; and

**WHEREAS,** increasing temperatures and high-volume freshwater releases from Lake O and stormwater management areas have harmed the St. Lucie estuary in recent years by encouraging harmful algal blooms and critically impacting seagrass, oyster reef, and other plant and animal populations; and

**WHEREAS,** harmful algal blooms in the St. Lucie River and estuary in recent years have produced dangerous toxins such as microcystin and BMAA which have been linked to chronic liver disease and neurodegenerative diseases in humans, and of which detectable levels were found in the nasal passages of all of the roughly 70 local people studied in 2018 by FAU Harbor Branch researchers, and which were discovered during autopsy in the bodies of local pet dogs which died soon after contacting visible algal blooms on the river; and

**WHEREAS,** sea-level rise threatens the sustainability of our local and regional freshwater aquifers; and

**WHEREAS,** sea-level rise projections predict life-altering flooding throughout significant portions of coastal South Florida, potentially leading to large-scale migrations toward and through the City of Stuart; and

**WHEREAS,** the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that continued warming temperatures, increased rainfall events, and sea-level rise are probable effects of climate change, and that global greenhouse gas emission drawdown is a primary goal to halt global climate change, and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stuart recognizes its necessary role in contributing to the global drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions to protect its citizenry, water, land, and air; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stuart has already taken steps to promote solar power, energy efficiency, and clean transit alternatives; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stuart is undertaking a new sustainability initiative to address both its vulnerability and options for environmental and climate risk mitigation and resilience by forming an inter-departmental task force with the goal of developing a Sustainability Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Stuart seeks to collaborate with its sister municipalities, Martin County, and other neighboring local governments on the Treasure Coast.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, MICHAEL J. MEIER, Mayor of the City of Stuart, Florida do hereby proclaim 2020, as the year of:

## CLIMATE ACTION IN THE CITY OF STUART

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stuart, Florida to be affixed this 13th day of January, 2020.

ATTEST:

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MICHAEL J. MEIER
MAYOR