

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, established in 1988 as part of Coast Week, National Estuaries Day is an annual celebration of the coastal areas where our rivers meet the sea. Estuaries are bodies of water in which the fresh water from rivers and streams mixes with the salt water of the ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. It provides critical habitat for a variety of marine plants and animals and is located along the Atlantic Flyway, a key biological highway for migratory birds. Its mangrove shoreline helps prevent coastal erosion and provides natural protection for homes during tropical storms; and

WHEREAS, on National Estuaries Day in 2011 more than 3,500 people celebrated this important occasion by visiting events at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Smithsonian Marine Station, where they learned about the importance of the Indian River Lagoon, and how we can protect it and ongoing research programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JoAnn M. Faiella, Mayor of the City of Port St. Lucie, do proclaim that Saturday, September 29, 2012, be observed as:

National Estuaries Day

and encourage all of our citizens to visit both the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Smithsonian Marine Station's National Estuaries Day Festivals, and to become protectors and advocates of the Indian River Lagoon.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, TO BE AFFIXED, THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, TWO THOUSAND AND TWELVE.



JoAnn M. Faiella
JoAnn M. Faiella, Mayor
Karen A. Phillips
Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk