Office of the Mayor
City of Fort Lauderdale

Proclamation

In Recognition of
Mangrove Awareness Day

WHEREAS, Florida supports one of the largest mangrove forests in North America, and has the largest total acreage of mangroves of any state in the nation, estimated at over 500,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks and the Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas manage thousands of acres of mangroves for the protection of Florida's natural environment; and

WHEREAS, mangroves provide vital nursery areas for fish, crustaceans and shellfish as well as animals and birds that depend on roots or branches of mangroves for shelter and nesting; and

WHEREAS, mangroves assist in protecting water quality by filtering runoff and trapping sediments and debris from adjacent uplands and marine waters; and

WHEREAS, mangroves convert this sediment and debris into soil that can build up and offset rising sea levels that Florida is currently experiencing; and

WHEREAS, mangroves are a natural barrier that protects shorelines from erosion due to storm surges, waves and boat wakes; and

WHEREAS, mangroves reduce one of the root causes of climate change by sequestering carbon more quickly and more permanently than terrestrial forests; and

WHEREAS, Florida's universities and government agencies conduct environmental research that improves understanding and awareness of mangroves; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale complies with all State and Federal regulations that afford protection to the delicate mangrove environment; and

WHEREAS, Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA), led by Executive Director Kristen Hoss and Director of Community Outreach Programs Lee Gottlieb, along with student and adult volunteers will plant 50 Red Mangroves, at Bill Keith Preserve in the city of Fort Lauderdale, helping to restore a vital wetland habitat in South Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with Youth Environmental Alliance (YEA), is declaring **Tuesday, February 2, 2016** to be the Fifth Mangrove Awareness Day at Bill Keith Preserve; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Fort Lauderdale are encouraged to learn more about the three species of mangroves native to Florida (black, red and white), and the benefits they provide to countless species of fish and wildlife and how they protect many miles of Florida's and Fort Lauderdale's coastline.

NOW, THEREFORE WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim **February 2, 2016** as:

MANGROVE AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

DATED this, the 20th day of January, 2016.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

Fort Lauderdale: The City Your Neighbors Want To Leave