

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 protect shorelines from erosion due to storm surge, waves, and boat wakes; and
- WHEREAS,** mangroves help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon more quickly and more permanently than terrestrial forests; 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 Lee Gottlieb, along with student and adult volunteers from TD Bank and local schools, will plant 150 Red Mangroves through funding from TD Charitable Foundation and the Community Foundation of Broward County at George English Park 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 **Thursday, November 10, 2016** to be the Sixth Annual Mangrove Awareness Day at George English Park in remembrance of Gene Dempsey, the City's long time urban forester; 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 the 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, **November 10, 2016** as:

Mangrove Awareness Day

in the city of Fort Lauderdale.

DATED this, the 1st day of November 2016.



Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler



"Fort Lauderdale: The City You Never Want To Leave"