

PROCLAMATION HONORING FRAN O. ROSS

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross, the daughter of Mrs. Johnnie Clyde Ross and the late J.A. "Red" Ross, is a native of Gifford, Florida, where she attended Gifford Elementary, Gifford High School, and Vero Beach High School; and

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross, earned her Associates of Arts Degree from Indian River Community College, going on to attend Florida Atlantic University where she earned her degree and taught school in Indian River County until she pursued her lifelong dream of becoming an attorney by enrolling in and graduating with her Juris Doctor degree from Southern University School of Law in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross, a distinguished member of the Florida Bar and Florida Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, worked with the Public Defender's Office, trying well over 200 cases in her career as a Public Defender, before embarking on a prestigious career as a private criminal defense attorney; and

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross is a member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church and is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Fran O. Ross has been a pioneer by becoming the first African American, Female Radio Dispatcher for the Indian River County Sheriff's Department and Correctional Officer for Indian River Correctional Institution, as well as the first African American Female elected to the Indian River Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, and the first African American Female attorney in Indian River County; and

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross currently serves as a Special Master presiding over Code Enforcement matters for the City of Fort Pierce and the City of Port St. Lucie; and

WHEREAS, Fran O. Ross is the proud mother of Israel and Noah, and the proud grandmother to three wonderful grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Proclamation recognizes the pioneer spirit and civic contributions made to the Treasure Coast by **Fran O. Ross**.

Duly adopted this 21st day of February, 2017.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman

Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

Susan Adams

Bob Solari

Tim Zorc