

Proclamation

HONORING DALE DAWKINS

Whereas, Indian River County celebrates African American Pioneers who, through their service in the business, public, and elected arenas, have paved the way for this and future generations; and

Whereas, Dale Dawkins, a native son of Indian River County, was born in 1966 to Henry and Verdell, and developed into one of Vero Beach High's all-time greatest athletes, graduating in the Class of 1986; and

Whereas, Dale received both football and basketball scholarships from the University of Miami, eventually choosing to play wide receiver for legendary coach Jimmy Johnson and winning two NCAA National Championship rings between 1987 and 1990; and

Whereas, Dale advanced to the National Football League as a 1990 draftee of the New York Jets, playing with the team for four years and winning the prestigious Ed Block Courage Award in 1992 for excellence in team leadership and perseverance in overcoming a potentially career-ending leg injury; and

Whereas, upon retiring in 1994, Dale returned to Vero Beach as an entrepreneur, public speaker, and founder of ProFitness of the Treasure Coast, where he held sports camps and small group athletic training before branching out as a minister at St. Peter's Missionary Baptist Church, gaining ordination as Assistant Pastor and overseeing operations of existing ministries and associated staff, starting new ministries, providing personal training for young athletes, and serving as Dean of Students at St. Peter's Academy Charter School; and

Whereas, in 2005, Dale's entrepreneurial spirit led him and his family to Bozeman, Montana, where he founded ProFitness of Montana, a non-profit organization that sponsors annual basketball tournaments, teaches kids, and funds scholarships for young adults seeking to further their educational and athletic goals; and

Whereas, after returning to Vero Beach in 2017, Dale has again immersed himself in his hometown, coaching football at VBHS, continuing as Dean of Students at St. Peter's, and starting C4L Charities, a partnership organization that most recently produced the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade in 2022.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, that the pioneer spirit and civic contributions of Dale Dawkins have positively impacted the lives of many Indian River County and Treasure Coast residents, and that the Board extends its heartfelt thanks for his tireless efforts within our community.

Adopted this 21st day of February, 2023.

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

Joseph H. Earman, Chairman

Susan Adams, Vice Chairman

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