

PROCLAMATION HONORING VICTOR HART, SR.

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., known to many as “Chief”, was born and raised in the Bahamas, immigrating to the United States at the age of 21 under a labor agreement between both governments; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., brought up with a sense of integrity and high moral principle, inherited the innate ability to organize people for action, becoming a visionary and social activist/leader; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., recognized social injustices in the Gifford Community and, in 1953, in collaboration with other Gifford citizens organized and founded the Gifford Progressive Civic League, whose mission addressed the inadequate provision of social services and infrastructure such as roads, water and sewage, and street lights; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., met with leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1953, and subsequently founded the Indian River County Branch to further the social justice for the Gifford Community and Indian River County; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., became an American citizen in April, 1961, starting his nearly 46 year presidency of the Indian River Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, where he earned the organization’s highest leadership award, the *T. H. Poole, Sr. Service Award* in June, 1996; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., joined the brotherhood of the Gifford Masonic Lodge #347 in 1953 and served as Worshipful Master for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr. dedicated more than 55 years of his life to causes to better humanity, through his faith and determination to ensure equal justice for all people, and as witnessed in his selfless service on numerous boards from Gifford, Florida, to Washington, D.C., including service as Chairman of the Gifford Health Center, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Gifford Youth Activity Center and Florida Partnership for End of Life Care, as a member of the Juvenile Justice Council, the Economic Development Council, the Primary Care Public Health Committee, and the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Advisory Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., facilitated the opening of over a dozen facilities across the State of Florida through his service on the Board of Directors of the Florida Community Health Center, providing low-income and disadvantaged citizens with health care services; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., a long-time member of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, continues to serve his community as Deacon; and

WHEREAS, Victor Hart, Sr., is the proud father of 11 children, 37 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren which were the product of his marriage of nearly 40 years with Valareese Young Hart.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Proclamation recognizes the extensive humanitarian and civic contributions made to the community and the country by Victor Hart, Sr.

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