

WHEREAS, the State of Florida ranks fifteenth in the Nation for the highest homeless population and one in seven of the state's population struggles with hunger; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Homeless Point-In-Time Count in 2020 identified 1,510 individuals and families experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan indicates that more than 300,000 residents struggle with hunger; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Month is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless including the shortage of affordable housing in Palm Beach County for very low-income residents, and to encourage support for homeless assistance service providers, as well as community service opportunities for students and school service organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Homeless Advisory Board has developed Leading the Way Home, a robust ten-year plan, designed as the next phase of ending homelessness in Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is consistent with the activities of the Homeless Advisory Board, Homeless Coalition, Homeless and Housing Alliance, Palm Beach County Food Bank, The Lord's Place, Gulfstream Goodwill Industries, Adopt-A-Family, and other service providers in Palm Beach County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shelly Petrolia, Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, do hereby proclaim the week of November 11-18, 2023 as:

National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Delray Beach to be affixed this 7th day of November 2023.

**SHELLY PETROLIA
MAYOR**