

WHEREAS, by 1776, nearly 300,000 Irish nationals had emigrated to the American colonies and played a crucial role in America's War for Independence; and

WHEREAS, five signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish descent and three signers were Irish born; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans helped to fashion a system of government for our young Nation; and

WHEREAS, twenty-two Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish American heritage; and

WHEREAS, in 1792, Irish born James Hoban provided the architectural plans for the White House and served as one of the supervising architects for the construction of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, the Irish first came to Spanish "La Florida" in the 1500s - first as missionaries and mercenary soldiers and then as planters, traders, businessmen, doctors, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, three of the Spanish Governors of "La Florida" were actually Irish military officers; and

WHEREAS, Father Richard Arthur, an Irish-born priest from Limerick, was appointed parish priest in St. Augustine in 1597 and ecclesiastical judge of "La Florida" established the first public school in America; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson, whose family came from County Antrim, served as Florida's military governor following its acquisition by the United States; and

WHEREAS, Irish Americans, since America's inception, have provided and continue to provide leadership and service to this nation's political, business, and religious establishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida, hereby proclaims the month of March 2024 as

"IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH"

in recognition of the long history of Irish American contributions and to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the many valuable contributions of Irish Americans.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF, we have hereunto
set our hands and caused the seal of
the City of Coconut Creek to be affixed
this 14th day of March 2024.**